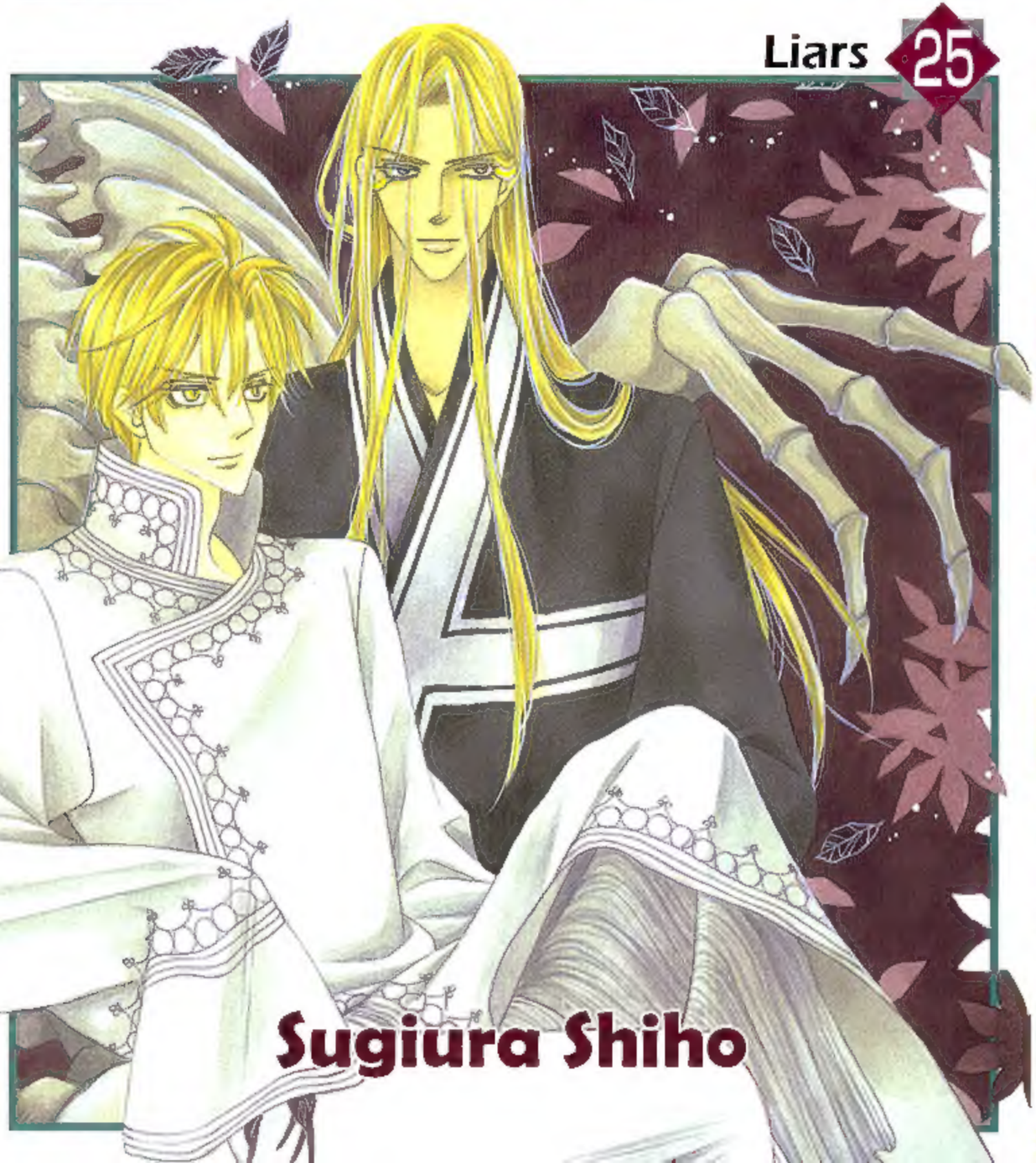
ICHIRACI TOSUISHA SPECIAL COMICS

シルバー ダイヤモンド

SILVER DIAMOND

Liars 25



Sugiura Shiho

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SILVER DIAMOND 25

ICHIRACI Comics

[About the Volume]
An engaging alternate universe fantasy. After getting rid of Hoshiminokoto for good, Rakan and Chigusa head to the place where the Ayame Prince is imprisoned in rocks. Meanwhile, Narushige and Tohji goes off to rescue Shigeyuki, but a problem arises!! Volume 25 has the destined face-off we've all been waiting for!! Also features a 4-page Extra story called "Sweet Whispers" and two 4-panel comics!!

SUGIURA SHIHO-SENSEI'S COMICS

SILVER DIAMOND ①~㉕
KOORI NO MAMONO NO MONOGATARI GAIDEN
CINDERELLA (BOY) KAKURITSURON
ISAGI-KOJIMA

<TOSUISHA BUNKOS>
KOORI NO MAMONO NO MONOGATARI ALL 14 VOLUMES
MOTTO!! KOORI NO MAMONO NO MONOGATARI
-ILLUSTRATION & DATA FILE-

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0.5 POINT

● I WAS CONSIDERING CALLING HIM "TORA" [TIGER] (YES, I GOT THAT SILLY IMPRESSION FROM THE CLOTHES HE WAS WEARING.), BUT I KNEW IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE WAY OF NAMING HIM, SO I THOUGHT UP A PROPER NAME FOR HIM. HIS NAME IS AOTO TOGIMARU. I KNOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE I USUALLY JUST CALL HIM "TORAMARU" INSTEAD, AND SIMPLY CHANGED A SYLLABLE TO MAKE IT DIFFERENT. THAT'S BECAUSE THAT ACTUALLY IS HOW I DECIDED ON HIS NAME.

ALL PUBLISHED COMIC BOOKS (BOTH FIRST AND SECOND EDITIONS) COME WITH MAIL ORDER POINT COUPONS SINCE OCTOBER 2001. THE COUPONS ARE FOUND AT THE BOTTOM-RIGHT CORNER OF THE BACK COVER OF THE COMIC BOOK. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE THEM.

SILVER DIAMOND 25

Sugiura Shiho

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[First Appearance]

Chapter 64 Ichi*Raci Oct. Edition (2011/8/20)

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*Ichi*Raci Comics No. 223*

SILVER DIAMOND
シルバーダイヤモンド

THE SOLE MEMBER OF THE SENROH FAMILY, AND HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH FOR MORE THAT 250 YEARS NOW.

treasures

feels he has the same fate with

A KIND-HEARTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. HAS THE POWER OF THE SANOME, THE ABILITY TO GROW THE ALTERNATE WORLD'S PLANTS AT HIS WILL. HAS THE SAME FACE AS THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL.

ALTERNATE WORLD CAPITAL

brothers with the same face?

HAS AYAME POWERS THAT WITHERS PLANTS BY ABSORBING ITS NUTRIENTS.

Enemies

using each other

THE PRINCE'S SOLE AIDE.

valued comrades

THE SOLE MALE IN SHIGEKA, THE FAMILY THAT PRODUCES SANOMES. KOH IS HIS COMPANION.

Siblings

HAS A NUMBERED NAME.

Valued comrades

COMES FROM THE TOHNO FAMILY, KNOWN FOR THEIR UNIQUE LIGHT FLOWERS. A NUMBER CHILD.

Cooperating with

HEAD OF THE SHIGEKAS, THE FAMILY THAT PRODUCES SANOMES.

Real Siblings

THE LEADER.

HAS A NUMBERED NAME.

Comrades

ALTERNATE WORLD FRONTIER

EX-FRONTIER GUARDS
SANOME PRINCE'S GUARDS

◆ ONE DAY, A PERSON FROM AN ALTERNATE WORLD NAMED CHIGUSA FALLS INTO RAKAN'S GARDEN. HE CALLS RAKAN, WHO CAN GROW PLANTS AT WILL, A "SANOME" AND TELLS HIM THAT HE NEEDS HIM. ◆ RAKAN GOES TO THE ALTERNATE WORLD WITH CHIGUSA AND THE OTHERS, AND HEADS TO THE CAPITAL TO RETURN THE GREENERY IN THE ALTERNATE WORLD.◆ TAKEN DOWN BY AN ENEMY ATTACK, CHIGUSA REMEMBERS THAT HOSHIMINOKOTO SADDLED HIM WITH THE FATE OF BRING THE DEATH GOD FOR THE PAST 1,000 YEARS. DETERMINED TO FIGHT HOSHIMINOKOTO TOGETHER WITH RAKAN, HE EVOLVES THE POWER OF HIS EYES, AND FINDS OUT THAT THE "MOON" AT THE CAPITAL IS THE SOURCE OF HOSHIMINOKOTO'S POWER. ◆ THEY FINALLY ARRIVE AT THE CAPITAL, AND SUCCEED IN SAVING NARUSHIGE AND DESTROYING THE "MOON". RAKAN FEELS SHAKEN UP AFTER FINDING OUT THAT THEY WERE ALL A PART OF AN EXPERIMENT HOSHIMINOKOTO STARTED 1,000 YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, HE THEN REALIZES THAT WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THE HEARTS AND WILLS THEY HAVE NOW. ◆ HOSHIMINOKOTO ONCE AGAIN APPEARS BY STEALING THE LIGHTS OF THE LIGHT FLOWERS AND TRIES TO SHATTER ALL OF THE LAND EXCEPT FOR THE CAPITAL'S, BUT THANKS TO THE PLANT RAKAN GREW WHICH IS CONNECTED TO PEOPLE'S HEARTS, THE LAND IS SPARED FROM SHATTERING. AS THE SPIRITS OF THE PEOPLE USED AS SACRIFICES A THOUSAND YEARS AGO MERGE WITH HOSHIMINOKOTO, RAKAN USES THAT TIME TO GROW A BELL TREE. THROUGH THE BELLS' POWER TO APPEASE EVIL SPIRITS, THEY MAKE HOSHIMINOKOTO, WHO HAS MERGED WITH THE SPIRITS, DISAPPEAR. HOWEVER?!

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE READ VOLUMES ①~㉔!!

STORY&CASTS

SILVER DIAMOND
シルバーダイヤモンド

The Real One

.....
Kin...
rei...
Why?
.....
?
The circuit...that triggers your awakening ...
...ought to have been... disabled...
Stop...

Liars

Hello! We're on volume 25.
Well, I guess it was pretty much expected, but this series has gone on for much longer than Mamono. v^v

Still, there's only a couple more chapters left, so please read until the end! ❀
As for this volume's extras, the name I had in mind for it was too long, so I had to give up on it. I made 4 panel comics about that one kid and the duo that's in a hurry instead... Why is it that when I draw extras like this, it always ends up going not the way I planned to...
Moving on, thank you so much to all the people that sent me their thoughts on the series!! And to all those that always send me stuff too!!
By the way, I occasionally post pencil sketches at random on my Twitter.

Feel free to check it out! ❀ My account name is @SugiuraShiho. No special characters.
See you next volume!

Sugiura Shiho 2011. The bell crickets have begun.

FWOOSH
AND NEITHER IS MY PRINCE!
FWP!!

CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
ANGER!
MHS...
RUST

...PRINCE.
.....
I COULD HEAR HIM.
...ALL THIS TIME,
I COULD NOT SNAP MYSELF OUT OF IT...
ALTHOUGH I WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING,
I APOLOGIZE.
THERE
WERE EVEN TIMES
I COULD LITTLE BY LITTLE MOVE MY BODY.
SEE HIM.

"THIS IS..."
"...A PUPPET..."
I WAS WATCHING.
"KIUREI ...!!"
.....
I WANTED TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

PRINCE ....!
I'M HERE,
ONE AND ONLY!!
MY PRECIOUS...
KINREI ...!!
.....
WHY THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN SLEEPING ALL THIS TIME?!
I KNOW.
I...
BECAUSE OF YOU, I HAD TO FEND FOR MYSELF...!
※The one that put him to sleep
...I WAS.
YOU'RE LATE...!!
MY APOLO-GIES.
.....
.....
STILL,

...WHAT HAPPENED TO HOSHIMI-NOKOTO? HE WAS STANDING RIGHT THERE!
YOU MEAN YOU TELEPORTED HIM AWAY?
I MADE HIM DIS-APPEAR.
NO.
SOMEHOW,
I THINK THE BLOOD YOU GAVE MAY HAVE MADE MY POWERS EVOLVE...
HE'S... SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE.
HIS "BODY" IS PROBABLY STILL ALIVE...
I...
WILL NEVER
LEAVE YOU ALONE AGAIN, I PROMISE.
...are useless now.
...Kinrei and the Prince...
.....

Fuck...
RRR!
RUMBLE!
BOOM!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE!
KINREI
...!!

STILL ACE...
.....
...UH...
HOSHIMI-NOKOTO ...
IS HE GONE FOR GOOD THIS TIME?
!
THE ONE BY KAZUHI IS GONE, TOO...!

TURNED BLACK, THEN DISAPPEARED ...
.....
HE DISAPPEARED?!
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND JUST NOW?
HOSHIMI-NOKOTO-SAMA...
THE LIGHTS TOO...
IT'S THE BELL TREE.
YEAH.
ITS SOUND SOOTHES THE DEAD...
SILENCE!

MY SENSES
FEEL AS THOUGH THEY'RE BEING STRETCHED ALONG WITH IT...
OH!
CHIGUSA'S EXPANDING
HIS FIELD OF VISION...
FWOOSH!!
.....
NOKOTO
IS GONE.
HE'S NOT IN ANY OF THE VILLAGES HE APPEARED IN...

IT'S A TERRIBLE WAY TO DESCRIBE IT,
BUT THE BLACK GHOSTS HELPED US
BY CONTAMI-NATING THE SHINING SAND...
THOSE CHIMES JUST NOW
WIPED OUT HOSHI-NOKOTO,
Whew...
.....
ALONG WITH THE ALL THE NEGATIVE ENERGY
Phew...

IN THE MEANTIME,
PLEASE WAIT IT OUT UNDER THE BIG TREE.
THE PLANTS
ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO HOLD YOU UP.
SENROH .....
SENROH CHIGUSA!
AS FOR THE GROUND,
LET'S SEE... I THINK IT'LL STOP BREAKING UP IN A FEW HOURS
HOSHIMINOKOTO WAS THE ONE DESTROYING THE WORLD, AND HE'S GONE NOW.
...EVERY-THING'S FINE.
.....
.....
I SEE.
THAT'S A RELIEF...
TWIST

OH.
FUNERAL
...FLOWERS.
FWOOSH
FOR THE BLACK SHADOW GHOSTS,
AND HOSHIMI-NOKOTO...
HERE'S

TO HOPING
...
RAKAN.
THAT PRAYERS
ARE NOT IN VAIN!!!
GOOD JOB...
RAKAN-KUN!
YOU WERE AMAZING! NICE JOB!
hug
Pat
...
CHIGUSA.
TOHJI!
NARU-SHIGE-SAN!
Koh!
...YEAH.
I'M GLAD...
I REALLY AM...
She

...HUH?
HEY, WHERE'S RINRAI-SAN?
!
AH! WHERE'D SHE GO?!
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN ...?
HAS SHE DISAPPEARED AGAIN?
HMM...
IT'S MORE LIKE SHE *WENT BACK* TO WHEREVER SHE CAME FROM...
NOT QUITE.
WHAT?
DIDN'T YOU MENTION THAT SHE'S CONNECTED WITH THE BELL TREE?
You said that, right?
YEAH.
HER FORM AND THE WAY IT MANIFESTS HAVE CHANGED .....
IT'S AS IF SHE'S ONE WITH THE TREE.
LIKE THE ONES IN FAIRY-TALES?
...I'M NOT REALLY SURE THOUGH.
...SO,
ONE WITH IT?
MAYBE SHE REALLY DID TURN INTO SOMETHING LIKE A TREE SPIRIT...

WOW,
IT'S PITCH BLACK OUT THERE...
HUH?
RING
IN ANY CASE...
CAN I REACH HER FROM HERE?
Yeah.
BELL TREES,
RINRAI-SAN, THANKS SO MUCH FOR HELPING US...!!
I DO HAVE A VAGUE IDEA OF WHAT'S AROUND US THOUGH,
HOSHIMINOKOTO TOOK THE LIGHTS OF THE LIGHT FLOWERS WITH HIM...
THANKS TO THE LIGHT EMITTED BY THE BELL TREE.
THE GUARDS DON'T HAVE ANY LIGHTS, DO THEY.
Could see
Could see
Could see
OH! RIGHT!
YOU CAN'T SEE A THING, CAN YOU NARUSHIGE?
Oh! I see

IT'S PITCH BLACK ...
.....
I STILL HAVE SOME LIGHT SEEDS...
ARE THEY SAFE TO GROW?
GIVE THEM HERE.
I'LL CHECK OUT THEIR CIRCUITS,
MAKE IT SO THAT THEY'RE NOT UNDER SOMEONE ELSE'S CONTROL, JUST IN CASE...
THAT ILLUSION WHICH DISAPPEARED EARLIER
LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE FROM THE KINGEN FAMILY...
THAT WAS THE ONE CONTROLLING KINREI-SAMA .....?!
BUT...
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING KINREI-SAMA ALL THIS TIME, TRUSTING HIS JUDGMENT.
WHAT HAVE WE DONE...?
I KNEW, WHAT WE WERE DOING WAS WRONG.
BUT I CHOSE TO DO IT. ANYWAY.
...STILL...
—— STILL.
I CHOSE TO DO THAT TO HIM.
WHO MADE RIKKA-SAMA THE WAY HE IS NOW.
I WAS THE ONE

I THINK IT'LL STOP BREAKING UP IN A FEW HOURS.
...AS FOR THE GROUND,
PLEASE WAIT IT OUT UNDER THE BIG TREE.
EVERY-THING'S FINE.
!!
THE GROUND CRACKED ...!!
WHAT IF...
OUR CHOICES WERE ALSO BEING MANIP-ULATED BY SOMEONE ELSE?!
WHAT HAVE WE DONE ...?!
CRACK!
FWOOM...

THIS PLACE...
...IS SAFE...
THAT SHOUT EARLIER... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
OH...
WELL, THE PRINCE WAS SAVED.
THE PRINCE SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS IN TROUBLE...
...SO. HOW'S KINRE! AND THE PRINCE DOING?
HE WOKE UP TO PROTECT THE PRINCE FROM HOSHIMI-NOKOTO.
HE'S HIMSELF AGAIN.
..... KINRE'S REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS.
AFTER THAT, HOSHIMINOKOTO SET OFF A ROCKSLIDE.
IT'S TRUE... BUT...
WHAT?! YOU'RE JOKING!

ALRIGHT! IT'S SETTLED!
WE'RE GOING TO SAVE KINREI AND THE PRINCE!
THEY'RE STUCK THEN...
.....
THE TWO OF THEM ARE TRAPPED UNDER THE ROCKS.
LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN'T TELEPORT OUT.
...I CAN'T SEE THEM VERY WELL.
WHICH MEANS, KINREI'S PROBABLY USING HIS BLOOD CLOTH TO BLOCK MY VIEW.
Inst ant!
RIGHT.
...YES, WE ARE.
He he
..HUH?
AREN'T WE?
...HE HASN'T CHANGED.

HE SWINGS RIGHT INTO ACTION LIKE ALWAYS...
YEAH.
BUT BEFORE THAT...
Yes?
AO.
PUT ME THROUGH TO THE GUARDS.
SURE. LET'S GO!
Yeah!
YORUAKI-SAMA!
WHAT WERE THOSE SOUNDS EARLIER?
WHAT ABOUT HOSHIMI-NOKOTO ...?!
YORUAKI-SAMA...!
ARE SENROH CH GUSA
AND THE SANOME PRINCE
GOING TO RESCUE US?
THE LIGHTS OF THE FLOWERS HAVE DISAP-PEARED...!
LET'S MOVE TO SAFETY WITH THE LIGHTS WE HAVE LEFT.
ALL IS WELL. PLEASE SETTLE DOWN, EVERYONE.
MI-
I mean,
"YORUAKI-SAMA!"
HM?
THOSE ARE THE LAST FEW PEOPLE IN THE PROPERTY..

SENROH!
SENROH!
GUARDS! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT?
pack
... HUH?
I'LL
OH! IT'S HERE!
I SEE! THANKS!
I ALTERED SOME OF THE LIGHT FLOWERS' CIRCUITS AND SENT THEM TO YOU
THERE ARE PLACES WITHOUT ANY LIGHTS THERE, RIGHT?
THE GROUND NEAR THE BRIDGE HE'S AT IS SAFE TO STAND ON.
YOU GUYS SHOULD LEAVE RIGHT NOW AND HEAD ON OVER TO GOUSHI.
THE BONE NETS UNDER THE CAPITAL MIGHT NOT HOLD ON FOR MUCH LONGER.
OKAY!
tug...

HERE YOU GO.
Thank you!
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
OH! I SEE!
I SHOULD PROBABLY GET SENROH TO LOOK AT THEIR CIRCUITS TOO.
AREN'T THOSE LIGHT SEEDS TOO?
YEP...
HMM?
tug tug
I SEE... THANK YOU
GETTING ALL THE SHIGEKAS TO SAFETY...
WE'RE ALMOST DONE...
SENROH! RAKAN!
HM? SHOUJI, IS THAT YOU?
AND THE SANOME AREN'T HERE.
BUT SHIGEYUKI-SAMA
YEAH

ALL THE SHIGEKAS WE ASKED SAY THEY HAVEN'T SEEN THEM.
.....
Hides...
...WHAT?
SHIGE-YUKI-SAN AND THE SANOME?
THEY'RE NOT AT GOUSHI'S EITHER
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU LOOK AROUND AND FIND THEM, SENROH?
SURE.
CLINK
.....
NO... THIS IS HER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
NOT THERE?
SHE MAY HAVE ALREADY ESCAPED ELSE-WHERE.
.....
WHERE'S SHE AT?
...I FOUND HER!
!

A DEAD END?
.....
IT'S A DEAD END!
...SHE'S WALKING WITH THE SANOME.
WHY WOULD SHE...
...GO THERE ...?
WHERE ARE THEY HEADED...?
THEY'RE NOT AT THE SHIGEKA RESIDENCE.
THEY'RE AT THE WESTERN .. FORT...?
HOLD ON!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU!
I'LL GO GET HER!
SHE CAN'T STAY HERE, IT'S NOT SAFE...!
I...
BUT...
I...
TO GET TO SAFETY OR NOT...
DON'T KNOW
.....
I.....
IF I WANT HER
BUT...
.....
.....

FOR STARTERS,
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY HEARING HER OUT?
TOHJI...
CHIGUSA ...
EITHER WAY,
THAT PLACE CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED FROM HERE.
IN THE MEANTIME,
WE'RE JUST GOING TO HELP KINREI AND THE PRINCE ANYWAY...
SOMEONE ELSE HAS TO LEAD THEM OUT TO SAFETY.

WHAT?
I CAN DO IT ALONE...
SURE.
TOHJI, YOU GO WITH HIM.
CAN I LEAVE THAT TO YOU, NARUSHIGE-SAN?
COULDN'T HE ASK THEM TO GO IN A DIFFERENT WAY...?
I FEEL VERY UNEASY ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
I WANT YOU TWO TO SPEND MORE TIME ALONE TOGETHER.
Shoo
RAKAN-KUN...
...SAE.
...NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF PERSON OUR MOTHER IS,
I'M GOING TO PRIORITIZE KEEPING HER SAFE, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
MY BROTHER ....?!
SAE,
IT'S OKAY
NARUSHIGE WILL FETCH SHIGEYUKI

YES.
...THANK YOU.
No problem.
...YOU GET IT?
NARUSHIGE,
HERE'S THE PLACE AND THE WAY THERE.
Lend me your forehead
I'M GOING TO SUMMON A TSUBAKI HERE. TAKE HIM WITH YOU.
THANKS.
TOHJI! NARUSHIGE-SAN! HERE, HAVE SOME SEEDS.
THEY'LL GROW ONCE YOU PLANT THEM IN THE GROUND.
YOU OUGHT TO GO ON AND GET TO SAFETY AS WELL.
I WILL ...!
I'LL LEAVE MOTHER IN YOUR HANDS ...!
...
My turn
Me! next!
hug
WELL!
YOU TWO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
ALRIGHT.
YOU TOO, RAKAN-KUN.
Woosh...!

JUST LIKE SENROH SAID.
THE CRACKS HAVE STOPPED APPEARING THOUGH...
THE WIND'S SO STRONG...
THE SANOME'S PLANTS... WILL PROTECT US FROM HARM...
YOU'LL SEE.
IT'LL BE FINE.
THE GROUND IS SHAKING A LITTLE THOUGH...
HOW TERRIFYING!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE TRIED TO DESTROY THE WORLD...
HE EVEN STOLE THE LIGHTS OF THE LIGHT FLOWERS...
STILL. WHAT ABOUT...
THAT MAN, "HOSHIMI-NOKOTO-SAMA"?
HE WAS DECEIVING US THIS WHOLE TIME.
WHAT WAS HE, EXACTLY?
NOT GOD, THAT'S FOR SURE.

DOES THIS MEAN
HE DOESN'T EXIST?
HEY.
SO,
WHERE IS "GOD" THEN?
AH!
?
!
KAZUHI!
HEY! OVER HERE!
WATCH YOUR STEP!

He sounds like such a snob!
Miya's surrounded by girls!
Whoaaa!
NO NEED TO BE ALARMED, THESE PEOPLE ARE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST.
I've never seen them before
YORUAKI-SAMA,
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
Tsk
I WAS WORRIED OVER NOTHING.
WHERE'S GOUSHI?
AH, HE LOOKS JUST FINE.
YES.
ARE THEY THE LAST OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE SHIGEKA RESIDENCE?
ROUND UP ALL THE SHIGEKA WOMEN HERE,
MI...
Whisper
This is hilarious!
Whisper
Miya looks so high-class!
Whisper
Whoaaa!
...FURTHER AWAY FROM HERE.
HE TOOK THE REST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE CAPITAL...
You guys are going to pay for this later!
KAZUHI-DONO.
...Making fun of me,
EH
are you?
MS
I heard everything.
...UNDER-STOOD,
Yoruaki-sama!
I mean,
YORUAKI-SAMA.
SPUN

YEAH... LOOK AT THE SKY.
THE WIND SURE IS STRONG THOUGH...
THE CLOUDS ARE MOVING ALARMINGLY FAST.
IS IT REALLY?
It's too dark, I can't see a thing.
Woosh
Huh.
He's actually scarier when he's being polite.
That's what you get for mocking me!
Ugh! Don't address me so formally!
INTIMIDATED.
DASH!!
RIGHT DOWN THIS ROAD. IT LEADS TO A PLATEAU OF SORTS...
WHERE'S SHIGEYUKI-SAN AGAIN?
WHY IS SHE HEADED THERE THOUGH ....?
THERE AREN'T EVEN BRIDGES THERE...
IF...
HMM?
NARU-SHIGE..
...SAY,

YOU CAN JUST STAND BACK WHEN THAT HAPPENS.
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST,
I'LL DO THE FIGHTING.
...WELL,
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE PLANNING ON IT AT ALL...
YEAH.
I'M NOT PLANNING ON KILLING HER ANY-MORE.
IT'S FINE.
...THANK YOU, TOHJI.
THAT WAS FAST!!
CHIGUSA.
I WAS COMPLI-MENTING YOU...
.....
YOU'VE...
REALLY GROWN UP, HAVEN'T YOU TOHJI?
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
NOT AT ALL.
THEN, WHO'S MORE MATURE? ME OR CHIGUSA?
WELL, YOU SEE,
HE'S MUCH MORE OF A PERVERT, AFTER ALL...
NARUSHIGE... ISN'T YOUR WAY OF JUDGING MATURITY A LITTLE WEIRD?!

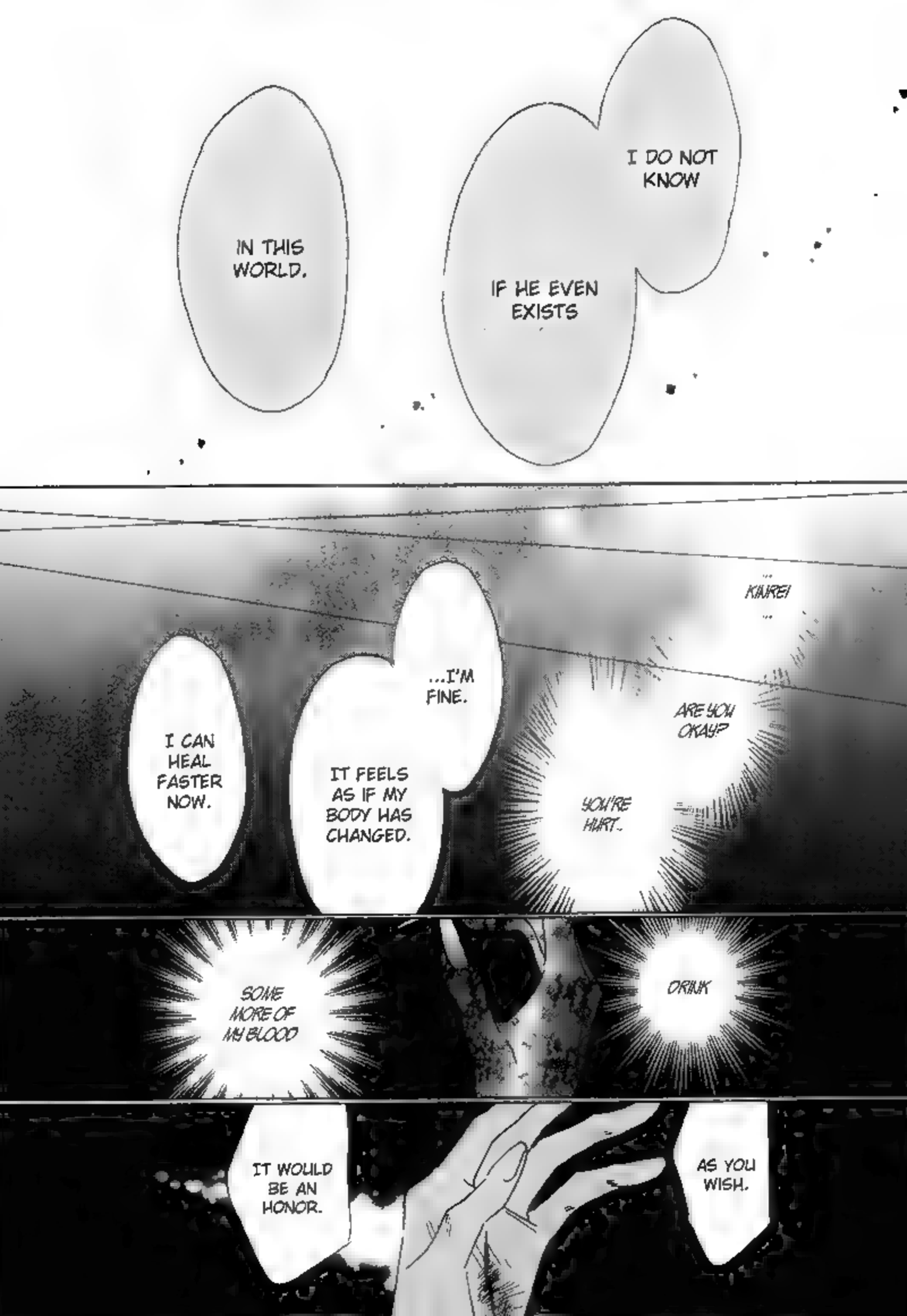
Woo
Sh
HE'S NOT, BUT SEE,
EVEN THOUGH HE'S REALLY CUTE, HE'S ALSO VERY COMPOSED...
BUT RAKAN'S NOT A PERVERT!!
YEAH, BUT STILL!
HOW ABOUT BETWEEN ME AND RAKAN THEN?
RAKAN-KUN.
INSTANT.
"MY TURN."
I MEAN, LOOK AT THE WAY HE HUGS PEOPLE, FOR EXAMPLE.
It's different...
Point taken...
WHAT?
THE BLACK NIGHT CLOUDS
ARE MOVING...
...AH!
!
THE WIND!
SLIDE
... HM?
AH...

WHOO
SHH
SLI

HUH ...?
... WHAT ...?
A BIG LIGHT THAT LOOKS LIKE A STONE...
AND NUMEROUS SMALLER ONES...!
HUH?
OH...!
THE MOON ...?!
HUH?
THE REAL ONE. !
THE MOON!
ISN'T ITS SHAPE A LITTLE WONKY?
NO, I'VE SEEN THAT SHAPE BEFORE IN A BOOK.
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT'S CALLED THOUGH...
THE REAL MOON
WAS HIDDEN BEHIND THE NIGHT CLOUDS.
AND SO WERE THE "STARS" ...
THE HEAVENLY LIGHTS SHROUDED BY CLOUDS
HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES ONCE MORE!
THAT'S THE MOON!
IT'S BEEN DECADES ...!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
MOON-LIGHT!
AND STARS...
...IT'S TRUE..

ONLY THE CHILD OF GOD COULD DO THAT!
MUST HAVE BROUGHT OUT THE MOON FOR US...!!
THE SANOME PRINCE
I SEE! HE'S GOD...!
THE CHILD OF GOD...
HE'S THE CHILD OF GOD...
OOH. I SEE.
THE SANOME PRINCE
WILL PROTECT US!
HE'S THE REAL GOD .!!
TSK...
HE'S GOD!
THEY JUST CHANGED THE PERSON THEY'D CLING TO!
THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
HE WILL SAVE US!
YEAH! THE SANOME PR.NCE..
. IS GOD!
YES
NO...
HE'S GOD!
THIS IS BAD!

I...
...AM NOT GOD.


I DO NOT KNOW
IF HE EVEN EXISTS
IN THIS WORLD.
...
KAIREI
...
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'RE HURT.
...I'M FINE.
IT FEELS AS IF MY BODY HAS CHANGED.
I CAN HEAL FASTER NOW.
DRINK
SOME MORE OF MY BLOOD
AS YOU WISH.
IT WOULD BE AN HONOR.

WHAT LIES IN STORE FOR US HASN'T CHANGED.
HOWEVER..
PRINCE?
THAT YOU WISH FOR,
...THEN WHAT IS IT
WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR US.
WE CAN STILL CHANGE

SHAOSH
.....
SAE-
SAMA?

SANOMES
TRULY
ARE
BETTER
OFF
WITHOUT A MIND OF THEIR OWN....
Sting!
.....
SHE ONLY LOOKS LIKE HER
JUST AS I THOUGHT
Lift

Intermission Buddies ①

THEN HOW ABOUT ME AND SHOUJI?
WHO'S MORE MATURE?
Shouji
Answers instantly.
SHOUJI.
NO WAY?! WHO ELSE LOOKS LESS MATURE THAN ME?!
SAYORI.
Sayori
WHAT?! THEN,
WHAT ABOUT ME AND SAYORI?
AKIICHI ...
SO IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE MORE MATURE THAN AKIICHI BUT CLEARLY LESS MATURE THAN ME. ...!!
...THEN, HOW ABOUT ME AND HAKUBI?
NO. I'M NOT DESPERATE ENOUGH TO COMPARE MYSELF WITH AKIICHI...
HM...
YES!! I WIN!!
Is that something to be happy about?
YOU.
YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT?!

Narushige's just playing with him.

Silver Diamond

[VOL 25] CHAP. 73: THE REAL ONE

by Sugarau Shiba

Amato Empire

シルバー ダイヤモンド

SILVER DIAMOND

Sujiura Shiho

Volume 25 Chapter 73

brought to you by

Amato Empire

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The Mask
REAL MOON-LIGHT!
THE SANOME PRINCE BROUGHT BACK THE MOON!
HE'S THE CHILD OF GOD!
THE SANOME PRINCE
IS THE REAL GOD!
IF THEY HAVE SOMEONE TO DEPEND ON..
THE WORLD
WOULD PROBABLY BE HAPPIER
TO LIVE THINKING LIKE THAT--
BUT IT SHOULDN'T MATTER..
IF THEY FIND IT EASIER..

HE'S JUST AN ORDINARY HUMAN,
WHO HAPPENS TO HAVE THE POWER OF A SANOME.
RAKAN
IS NOT THE CHILD OF GOD
HUH?
THAT'S SENROH CHIGUSA'S VOICE...

I...
...AM NOT GOD.
"ORDI-NARY"?
HE CALLED THE PRINCE ...
AN ORDINARY HUMAN!
UM
I'M SORRY I
RAKAN
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY HUMAN.
IN THIS WORLD EITHER.
..IF GOD EXISTS
I DON'T KNOW

...WELL
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE DOES EXIST
OR WHETHER HE ACTUALLY WOULD HELP US.
BUT, AT ANY RATE
MAYBE GOD DOES EXIST,
AND WE JUST CAN'T SEE HIM.
.....
NO WAY...
HE SAYS HE'S NOT GOD...
HE'S NOT THE "CHILD OF GOD"?
...TO CHOOSE HOW WE'RE GOING TO LIVE.
WE SHOULD BE THE ONES...
...SHOULD BE HANDLED BY HUMANS THEMSELVES.
HUMAN AFFAIRS...
REALISTI-CALLY SPEAKING,
...IN OTHER WORDS,

BUT...
GOD TRULY DOES EXIST
I REALLY CAN'T SAY FOR SURE
WHETHER OR NOT...
.....
URK
URK..
.....
THEIR PEERS, AND THE WORLD THEY LIVE IN,
REMEMBER TO TREA-SURE THEM-SELVES,
THAT AS LONG AS PEOPLE
I BELIEVE
WILL DO JUST FINE.
MANKIND
...
REALLY.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO,
IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
IT'S OKAY

PRINCE?
IT'S OKAY
TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN FATE.
YOU CAN START OVER ANYTIME ANYWAY.
YOU CHOSE FOR YOUR-SELF.
STILL, I THINK IT'S BETTER TO LIVE A LIFE...
MAYBE YOU'LL CHOOSE WHAT'S RIGHT. MAYBE YOU WON'T.
PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR OWN LIVES.

THERE IS...
NO LIMIT TO THAT.
ABSO-LUTELY NONE.
THEIR MEMO-RIES WILL LIVE ON IN THE PEOPLE THEY'VE TOUCHED.
I BELIEVE THAT'S THE WAY...
THE WORLD TURNS.
HUMANS MAY HAVE MORTAL LIVES,
THEY ALSO POSSESS THEIR OWN UNIQUE POWER.
THEY CAN EVEN LIVE ON IN SPIRIT!
THERE'S ANY-THING WRONG WITH THAT.
MEN CANNOT LIVE FOREVER
BUT I DON'T THINK
BECAUSE. .
WHERE THERE'S AN END, THERE IS ALSO A BEGINNING.
THAT'S HOW NATURE WORKS, AFTER ALL
THAT HE DOESN'T EXIST, THEN THAT'S OKAY, TOO.
EVEN ON THE OFF-CHANCE ...
AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH CHOOSING NOT TO, EITHER.
IT'S OKAY TO BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS.

LIVING AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD,
WHILE TREASURING WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU
IS ENOUGH.
THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO DO
PLEASE LIVE YOUR LIVES
TO THE FULLEST.
MAKE USE OF WHAT LIFE OFFERS YOU.
.....
PRINCE ...
YOUR MAJESTY...
"LIVING ..."
"AS WE NORMALLY WOULD ..."
"IS ENOUGH" ?

HE'S NOT THE CHILD OF GOD.
EVEN IF
THERE IS NO GOD...?
GOD
HE DIDN'T SAY THAT.
HE MEANT THAT IT'S OKAY TO BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS,
LURK
BUT LEAVING EVERYTHING UP TO GOD IS NOT.
DOESN'T EXIST...
THE SANOME PRINCE...
RAKAN ...
IS, IN FACT,
JUST YOUR AVERAGE CHILD.
WHAT?
HE MAY HAVE THE POWER OF A SANOME,
BUT THAT'S A FLIMSY REASON TO MAKE HIM CARRY THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS
SHUIP
THOUGH I'M SURE THAT RAKAN THINKS...
SHOULDERING RESPONSIBILITY LIKE THAT IS NORMAL.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO FOR NOW IS TO TREASURE THE PEOPLE YOU LIKE,
I THINK.
WELL, IN YOUR CASE,
LIKE US.
"TREASURING OTHERS" ...
RAKAN-KUN..
TREASURING THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THAT.
CAN I?
YES.
ARE WE ALMOST THERE?
No problem.
TOHJI..
THERE'S NO NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF.
Thank you.
HAA
.....

CHIGUSA.
...HEY.
HMM?
RAKAN.
!
REASSURE ME.
OF COURSE!
YOU...
ARE A VERY COOL PERSON.
YOU TRULY ARE.
I...
HAVE I...
DONE WELL?
YES, VERY WELL!
ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE A FATHER, DO I.
BUT I DID HAVE A GRANDFA-THER.

... YEAH.
GRANDPA WAS AN HONORABLE MAN.
HE'S MY IDOL.
HE TOLD ME TO BECOME SOMEONE COOL.
EHE
WHO RAISED YOU TO BE SO COOL.
YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS THE ONE
IS COMPOSED OF YOUR GRANDFATHER AND YOUR SANOME MOTHER. THAT'S IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
DOESN'T MATTER.
YOUR FAMILY...
THE "STRING" IN MY NAME
*T N Arakan, or Arhat in Sanskrit, is a Buddhist saint who has attained enlightenment
YOUR NAME
CAME FROM THE NAME ARAKAN.
SOME-ONE "COOL"!*
... I CAN'T FIND A GOOD WORD FOR IT.
IT'S NOT FAMILY
WHAT ARE YOU TO ME?
HMM?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, CHIGU-SA?

TO ME,
YOU'RE "MY PRINCE".
NOT THAT I'M SAYING YOU'RE THE CHILD OF GOD,
JUST THAT YOU'RE MY PRINCE.
THAT'S OKAY?
MINE AND NO ONE ELSE'S.
YEAH. SURE.
YOU OKAY WITH ME CONSIDERING YOU AS MINE?
GO FOR IT.
I'LL GO WITH THAT TOO, THEN.

I WOULDN'T MIND SAYING IT...
YES, BUT THAT'S YOU.
twish
THE THING IS, THOUGH,
IT'S TOO EMBARR-ASSING TO SAY THAT IN PUBLIC. NOT THAT I ACTUALLY WOULD...
GREAT THEN!
Actually
IT WOULD BE A DREAM COME TRUE
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
I wouldn't go that far
WAIT
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE A PRINCESS, RIGHT?
NOPE. WE'RE GOOD.
SAY, THEY DIDN'T HEAR OUR CONVERSATION JUST NOW,
DID THEY?
OHH! THAT'S A GOOD ONE! VERY COOL.
And when did you read his manga-?
I SAW THAT WORD IN ONE OF YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S MANGA.
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING OVER THE TOP THEN, LIKE "WAR BUDDIES"
RAKAN?
snap

PRINCE?
I HEARD RAKAU.
TALKING.
HE SAID
IT WOULD BE OKAY TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN FATE.
ALL RIGHT!
SHALL WE?
rip!

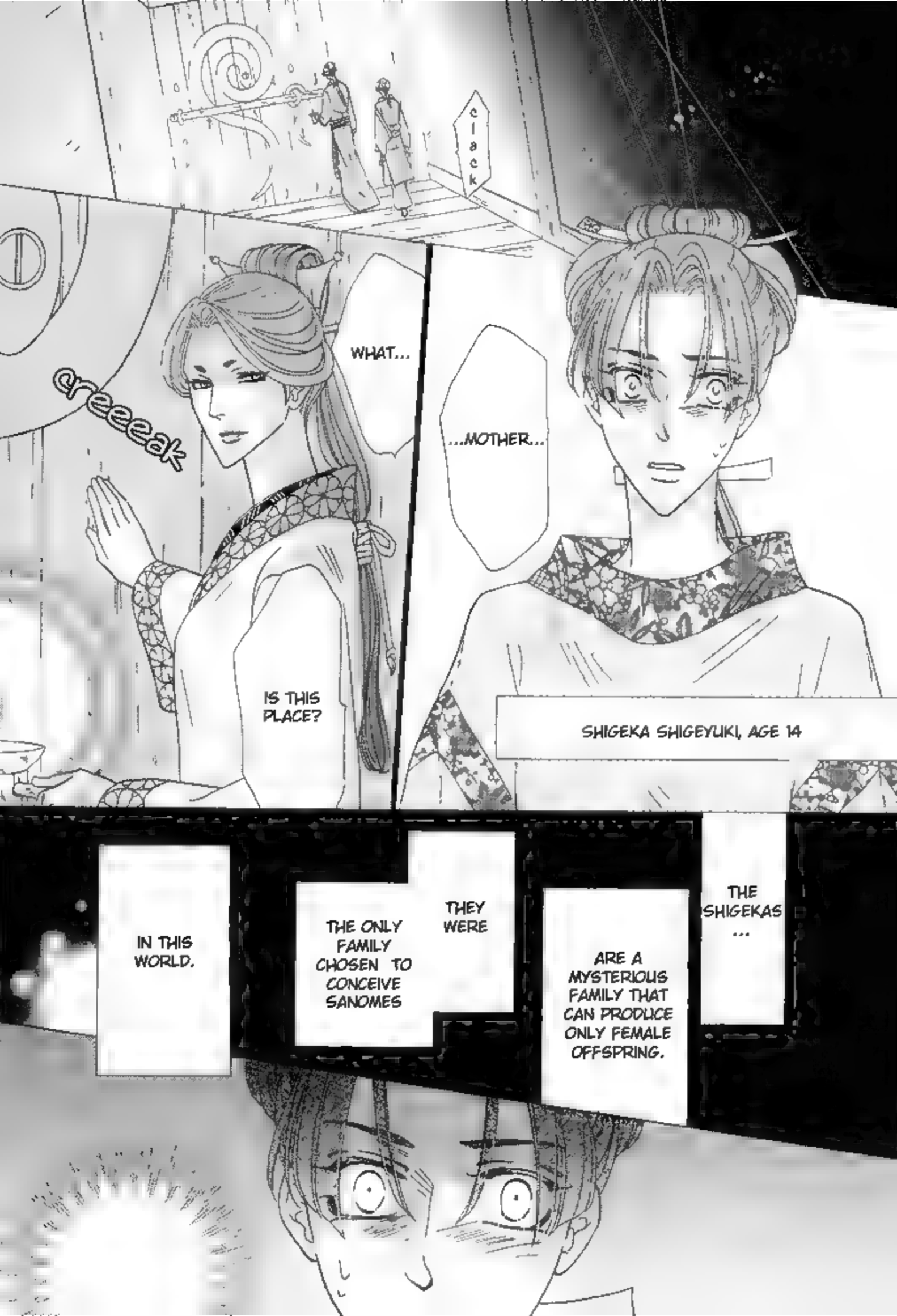
.....
THEY'RE NOT NICE TO LOOK AT.
THEY JUST WITHER THINGS.
DO YOU
NOT LIKE YOUR HANDS ?
MY FUTURE WON'T CHANGE.
BUT I CAN'T CHANGE MY HANDS.
HE'S RIGHT, PRINCE.
IT'S YOUR LIFE...
THESE INCLUDED.
PRINCE.
YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE,
...THIS
IS "ME"...
I NEVER ONCE WISHED
THAT YOU WERE A SANOME INSTEAD.
I LIKE THEM.

I'M FINE JUST THE WAY I AM.
AFTER ALL THAT'S BEEN SAID AND DONE,
EVEN WITH THESE HANDS...
I SEE.
WELL, IF KAKEI SAYS IT'S FINE,
THEN I'M OKAY WITH IT TOO...
MY WISH HAS NOT CHANGED.
MY SOUL IS RIGHT WHERE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT NOW.
I STILL DON'T BELIEVE THAT I WAS MANIPULATED INTO BECOMING A "VILLAIN".
PRINCE?
WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR,
HOSHIMI-NOKOTO
THE PLAN HOSHIMI-NOKOTO MADE.
RAKAN AND THE OTHERS DON'T KNOW...

KUMEL
WAS FORCED TO GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.
WAS CREATED
WHO WOULD ACT AS THE
WAS TO BECOME THE
THAT WOULD PERFECT THE

ALL THIS TIME...
ALL THIS TIME, I WAS NOTHING MORE...
...THAN A STEPPING STONE FOR THE SAIOME PRINCE!
IF I WAS CREATED
TO BE A PUPPET THAT WOULD ACT AS THE VILLAIN,
AS THE ENEMY THAT WOULD MAKE THE SAIOME PRINCE FLOURISH,
AND PERFECT HIS STATUS AS THE "CHILD OF GOD",
Even if it ends in our deaths!
then I want things to end in our victory!
...VICTORY!

WE CAN STILL CHANGE WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR US BEFORE WE DIE!
SO WHAT IF WE CAN'T CHANGE...
THE FUTURE HOSHIMIKOTO HAS SET FOR OUR LIVES?
...IS HOW I WISH TO LIVE!!
THIS...
AS YOU WISH,
PRINCE!
.....
thunk


creeeak
WHAT...
IS THIS PLACE?
clack
...MOTHER...
SHIGEKA SHIGEYUKI, AGE 14
IN THIS WORLD.
THE ONLY FAMILY CHOSEN TO CONCEIVE SANOMES
THEY WERE
ARE A MYSTERIOUS FAMILY THAT CAN PRODUCE ONLY FEMALE OFFSPRING.
THE SHIGEKAS ...

THIS...
THIS IS WHAT SHE'LL BECOME.
ONCE A PERSON CONSUMES THAT SEED,
YOU SEE
FACES!
TREES WITH FACES!
FOR THE SANOME TREE SHE'LL TURN INTO.
HER BODY WILL BE USED AS SUSTE-NANCE...
SHIGE-YUKI.
SANOMES CANNOT BE CONCEIVED NATURALLY INSIDE A YOUNG LADY'S STOMACH.
AND NOW, ONE HAS FINALLY BORNE FRUIT.
THEY GROW FROM SEEDS.

AFTER SUCH A LONG WAIT,
A SANOME HAS FINALLY COME FORTH!
HELP... ME... WHAT'S...
...HAPP-ENING... TO ME...?
HELP... ME...
.....
...ME ...
SHE'S SMI-LING...
MOTHER
PLEASE ...
KILL ME... ALREADY...
DRAI-NING ME
IT'S DRAI-NING... ME

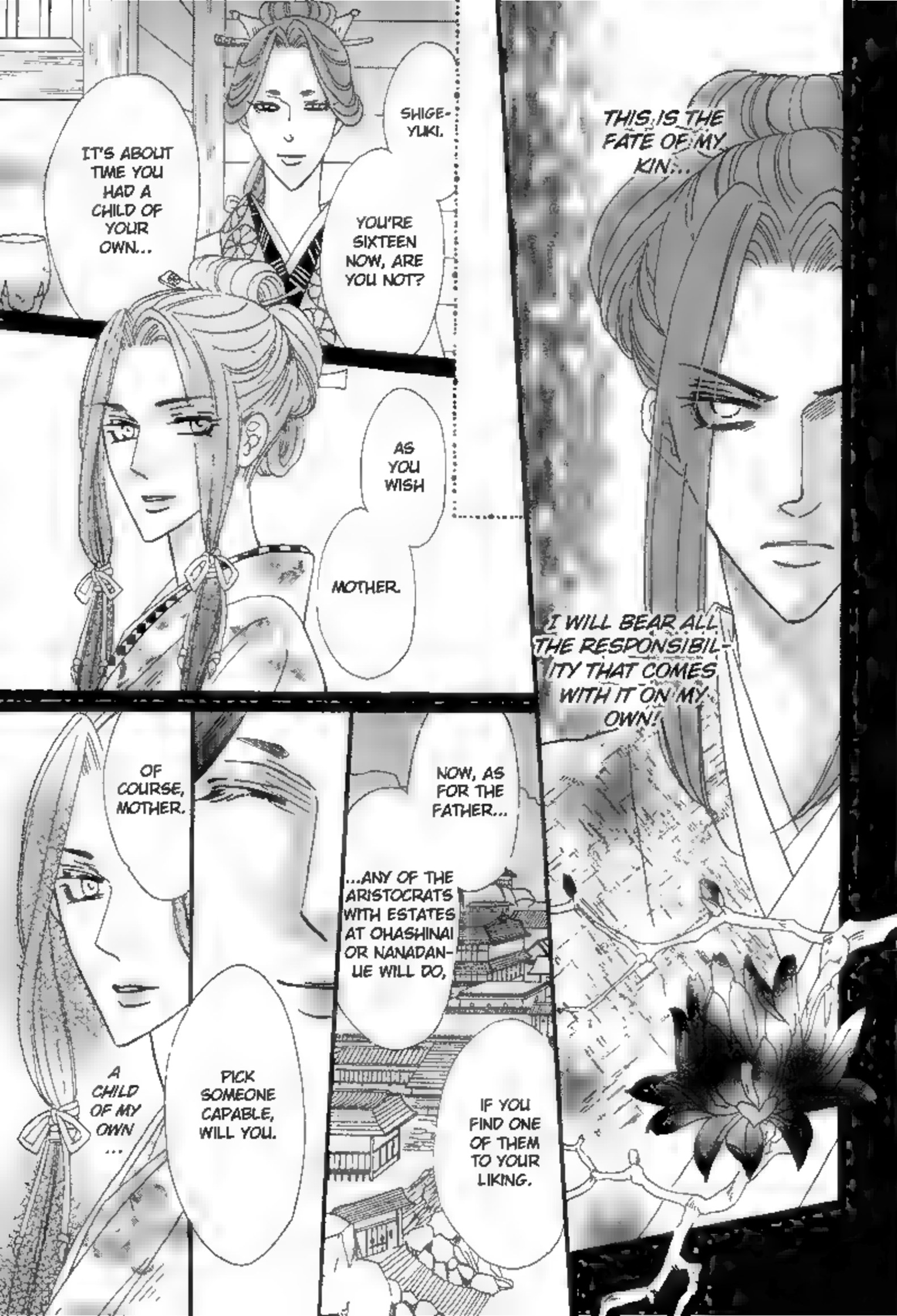
WHAT BAD TIMING! I HEARD A SANOME HAS FINALLY BEEN BORN!
WILL SHE BE ABLE TO BECOME THE NEXT CLAN HEAD WHEN SHE'S ACTING THAT WAY...?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE'S SHIGEYUKI?
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.
APPARENTLY, SHE'S JUST DEPRESSED
SHE FELL ILL?
SHE'S BEEN LYING IN BED IN THE BACKROOM FOR 3 DAYS NOW
FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, GET UP!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR BODY!
MOTHER
whump
MOTHER
SHIGEYUKI!
IS THAT...
IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT
ACCEPTABLE...?"

ARE THE SANOMES NOT MONSTERS?!
I CAN'T GO ALONG WITH THIS!!
I DON'T THINK WE'RE EVEN HUMAN!
WHAT ON EARTH
THAT WAS JUST VILE!
IS OUR FAMILY SUPPOSED TO BE?!
CREATING SANOMES THIS WHOLE TIME?!
IS THAT HOW YOU'VE BEEN
IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT EXCUSABLE?!
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?!
WE ARE NOT HUMAN.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
FOR THE GOOD OF THE WHOLE EMPIRE.
OUR FAMILY HAS BEEN GIVEN A MAJOR ROLE
WHO ARE THE "THREADS OF GOD"
THE NEXT MOST RESPECTED AFTER THE KINGENS,
THERE IS NO ROLE
MORE HONORABLE THAN THIS ONE.
WE
ARE THE CHOSEN ONES.

MY DESTINY
IS INESCAPABLE.
IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF MANKIND!
AFTER MY MOTHER STEPS DOWN,
I...HER DAUGHTER,
WILL...
HAVE... TO CONTINUE
THIS... GRUESOME
DEED...
IN CHARGE OF THE FAMILY ALONG WITH THESE SEEDS, NEXT.
YOU WILL BE THE ONE
THE HUMAN SACRI-FICES ARE FOR THE BEST.
WE NEED SANOMES, SO THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO.
WHAT
A FRIGHTENING SMILE
MOTHER...
ME?
ME?
I CAN GIVE BIRTH TO A SANOME?
WHAT?
SANOMES GROW FROM SEEDS?
AND ONLY A CHOSEN FEW CAN CONSUME THESE SEEDS?
WAS CHOSEN...?
I..
FOR THE CITIZENS OF THIS EMPIRE!
YOU MUST DO YOUR DUTY
SHIGEYUKI,
THIS IS YOUR DESTINY.

THEY ARE THE ONES
WHICH GIRL TAKES THEM AND WHEN
ON HOW MANY SEEDS THERE ARE
WHO SUPERVISE ALL THE DOCUMENTATION
ARE SECRETLY UNDER THE CUSTODY OF THE KINGENS
THE SANOME SEEDS
WILL HAVE TO KEEP GIVING BIRTH TO SANOMES
MY FAMILY
THERE ARE STILL SEEDS LEFT,
AS LONG AS
IF I PREVENT THEM
FROM ACQUIRING MORE SEEDS DURING THAT TIME
IF I CAN DISCREETLY THROW AWAY THOSE SEEDS DURING THAT TIME,
THEN THERE WILL BE FEWER HUMAN SACRIFICES IN THE FUTURE!
THEY TURN INTO A TREE AGAIN
I HEARD THAT WHEN SANOMES DIE
LEAVING BEHIND A GREAT NUMBER OF SANOME SEEDS
JUST ONE, WHICH MY MOTHER IS IN CHARGE OF RIGHT NOW
THE ONE THAT I SAW GROW IN THAT FRUIT
NOTHING CAN GET PAST KIN-JOU-SAMA!
BUT
RIGHT NOW,
WE ONLY HAVE ONE SANOME

I NEED TO PREVENT THE SANOMES FROM INCREASING!
I'LL TRY AND DO EVERYTHING
THAT I CAN DO.
...ALL THE HORRID THINGS WE'VE BEEN DOING,
THE PEOPLE WOULD ONLY FEEL WORSE
IF PEOPLE FIND OUT ABOUT...
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THIS.
ABOUT THE GRIM FUTURE OF OUR WORLD.
I CANT!
.....
.....
...I'M BETTER OFF
SHOULDERING ALL THESE HORRID THINGS ON MY OWN.
SWALLOW THIS
IT'S POISON
IT'LL MAKE YOU WITHER AWAY.
THANK... YOU...
crunch
...DY
PLEASE
LET ME DIE... ALREA-DY...
IF OUR WORLD CANNOT FUNCTION
WITHOUT SACRIFICING OTHER PEOPLE,
THEN ALL OF US
...SHOULD JUST FACE OUR DEATHS AND DIE OUT TOGETHER.


IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU HAD A CHILD OF YOUR OWN...
SHIGE-YUKI.
YOU'RE SIXTEEN NOW, ARE YOU NOT?
AS YOU WISH MOTHER.
THIS IS THE FATE OF MY KIN...
I WILL BEAR ALL THE RESPONSIBIL-ITY THAT COMES WITH IT ON MY OWN!
OF COURSE, MOTHER.
NOW, AS FOR THE FATHER...
...ANY OF THE ARISTOCRATS WITH ESTATES AT OHASHINAI OR NANADAN-UE WILL DO,
A CHILD OF MY OWN ...
PICK SOMEONE CAPABLE, WILL YOU.
IF YOU FIND ONE OF THEM TO YOUR LIKING.

IT'S INEVITABLE!
THE RULES SAY
THAT SHIGEKA WOMEN MUST GIVE BIRTH TO TWO CHILDREN.
WILL MY CHILD HAVE GO THROUGH THE SAME THINGS I HAVE?
A DIRECT DESCENT OF THE SHIGEKAS.
A CHILD OF MY OWN.
HOW CAN SHE EVADE HER DESTINY?
FROM OUR PREDETERMINED FATE?
WHAT DO I DO?
HOW CAN I PROTECT MY CHILD...
IF I DO THIS, I CAN PROTECT MY CHILD!
THEN THE SHIGEKAS WON'T UTTER A SINGLE COMPLAINT.
AND IF A KINGEN ADOPTS HER,
IF THAT HAPPENS, THE KINGENS WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO ADOPT HER.
THE KINGENS...
HAVE DOMINANT GENES.
IF HER FATHER WAS A KINGEN AND SHE LOOKED LIKE ONE, TOO...
COME TO GET MORE SEEDS, HAVE YOU?
OH, SHIGE-YUKI.
BUT MAYBE I CAN TEMPT ONE INTO CHOOSING ME AS HIS PARTNER.
THE KINGENS DON'T REALLY SEEM LIKE THEY ASPIRE TO BE PARENTS
I JUST NEED...
I CAN DO THIS!
I'LL DO ANYTHING.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR CHILD.
IT'S SUCH A SHAME,
SHIGE-YUKI.
TO KEEP MY EMOTIONS UNDER CONTROL!
...KINJOU-SAMA.
BUT YOU PULLED YOURSELF TOGETHER... I'M SO PROUD OF YOU.
I CAN DIE IN PEACE.
KEEP OUR FAMILY SAFE,
TOGETHER WITH OUR DEAR SANOME.
I WILL PUT AN END TO OUR FAMILY'S DUTY
DURING MY RULE!
I WILL, MOTHER.
REST ASSURED.

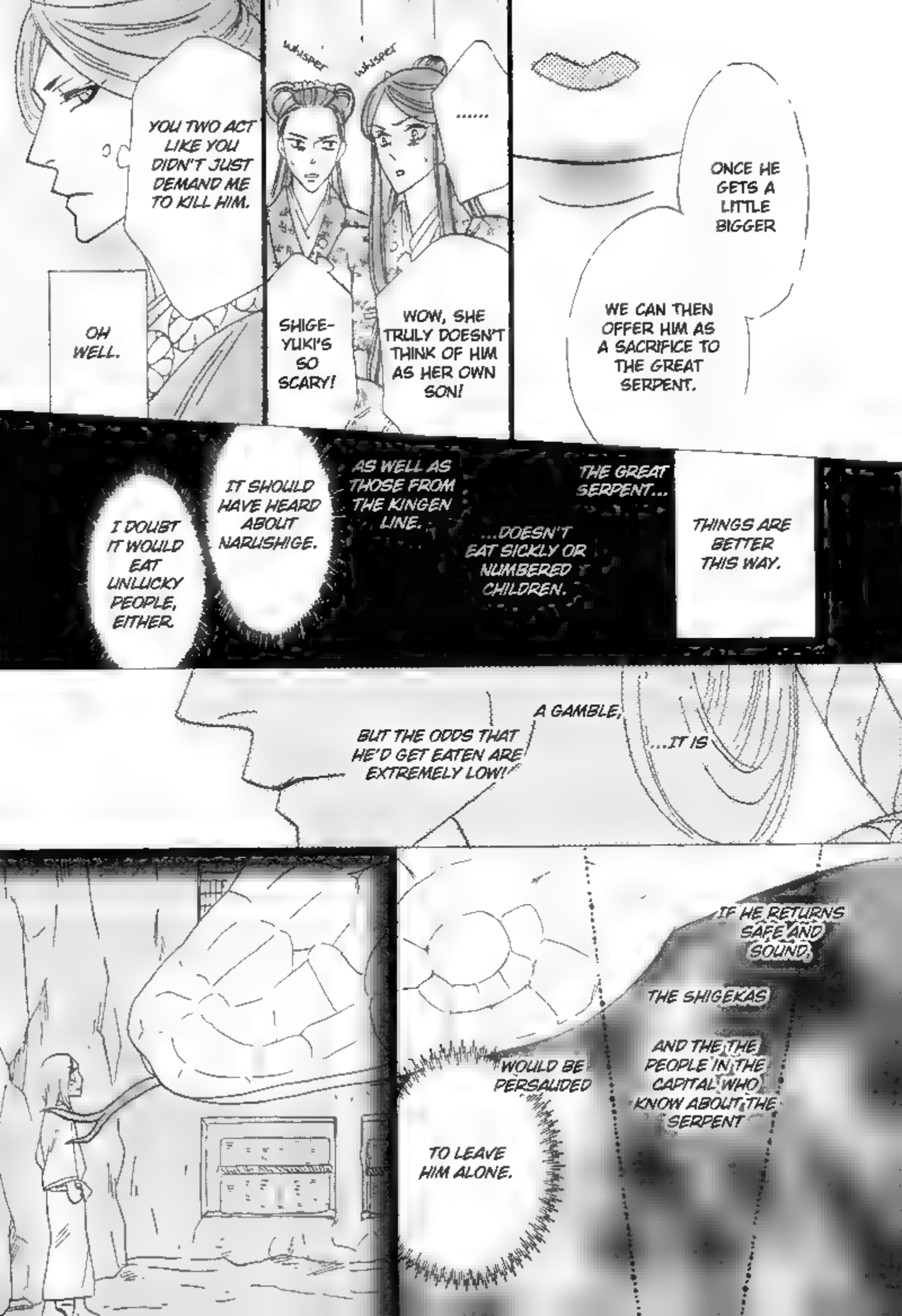
WHEN A SANOME DIES,
IT TURNS INTO A TREE
THAT PRODUCES A LOT OF SEEDS...
THIS SANOME HERE RIGHT NOW
WILL PROBABLY BE THE LAST OF ITS KIND.
HOW DO I
MINIMIZE THAT AMOUNT...?
THAT WILL BE YOUR NAME
"SAE"
LET'S GIVE YOU A NAME
SANOME-SAMA,
YOU HAVE A LIFE OF YOUR OWN TOO.
I'LL EVEN TEACH YOU OUR LANGUAGE...
I HOPE
YOU'LL COME TO HAVE A MIND OF YOUR OWN

WHEN A FEMALE SANOME PROCREATES WITH SOMEONE FROM THE OPPOSITE SEX,
SHE LOSES HER SANOME POWERS.
FOR NOW, I'LL TRY TO PAVE A WAY FOR HER TO ACT MORE LIKE A HUMAN, SO THAT BEFORE SHE DIES, SHE CAN MEET SOMEONE AND HAVE CHILDREN WITH THEM THE NORMAL WAY.
INSTEAD WE CAN OBTAIN A SANOME CHILD THOUGH THIS INSTEAD. OF PRODUCING NUMEROUS SEEDS BY TURNING PEOPLE INTO TREES,
waa
uwaa
hu waa!
A BOY?!
IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE FOR SHIGEKAS TO GIVE BIRTH TO BOYS, JUST GIRLS!!
WHAT?! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!
HIS SKIN IS TOO PALE!
HIS HAIR'S NOT EVEN GOLD!
FAR FROM IT!
A BOY...?

KILLING THE BOY...
WILL ONLY INVITE GREATER MISFORTUNE ON US!
QUICK!
....
WE
SHOULD GET RID OF IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
WHY'S THE BABY A BOY!?
WHAT ON EARTH! I'M SCARED!
WE'RE ALREADY HAVING TROUBLE CONCEIVING MORE SANOMES!
IT'S A SIGN!
THIS IS DEFINITELY A BAD SIGN!
LET'S GO TO KINGEN-SAMA!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO OVERLOOK THIS!
SHIGE-YUKI,
EVEN SO!
NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT,
SHE'S RIGHT.
WE SHOULD GO TO KINGEN-SAMA FIRST...
I WILL DEFER TO HIS SUPERIOR JUDGMENT.
PERHAPS HE HAS RECEIVED WORD ON WHAT IT ALL MEANS FROM THE HEAVENS.
LET'S SEEK GUIDANCE FROM KINGEN-SAMA.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT HAS HAPPENED IN OUR EMPIRE...

THEY'VE NEVER GIVEN BIRTH TO BOYS BEFORE!
A SHIGEKA GAVE BIRTH TO A BOY?!
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?!
I KNEW IT! IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
HE'S AN ILL OMEN!
I'M SO SORRY...
...FOR USING YOU SO MUCH...
HE EVEN BESTOWED HIM WITH THE NAME "NARUSHIGE",
WITH THE HOPES THAT IT WOULD REDUCE THE MISFORTUNE HE BEARS,
AND THAT HE WOULD NOT SERVE AS AN ILL OMEN.
WAS NOT SO HEARTLESS AS TO ABANDON HIS OWN CHILD.
PREDICTABLY ENOUGH
KINGEN KINJOU-SAMA
SO HE ORDERED TO LET HIM LIVE.
FORGIVE ME, SHIGEYUKI.
I COULDN'T PROVIDE A MORE REASSURING COVER FOR HIM...
I WISH WE COULD JUST GET RID OF HIM!
HE'S BAD LUCK!
BUT HE'S BAD LUCK!
SO HE LET HIM LIVE.
KINGEN-SAM A CHERISHES ALL LIVING THINGS,
peek
SHINOBU.
KASANE...
...SHIGE-YUKI.
slide

I'm sorry!
Okay.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?! YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE!
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!
I KNEW IT!
EVERYONE'S SYMPA-THIZING FOR YOU IN THEIR MINDS,
BECAUSE THEY KNOW YOU DIDN'T FORESEE THIS HAPPENING.
BUT I'M SURE YOU PROBABLY THINK HE'S PRECIOUS, SINCE HE'S YOUR CHILD!
AND I TOLD YOU THAT KILLING HIM WOULD JUST [redacted] GREATER MISFORTUNE...
AN UNLUCKY BOY LIKE HIM SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF!
IS THAT BOY GOING TO KEEP LIVING HERE?
HE'S RUINING OUR FAMILY'S REPUTATION!
THE TOWN IS GOSSIPING ABOUT HIM, CALLING HIM AN ILL OMEN!
THAT CHILD?
LOOK LIKE I LOVE
DO I...
WHAT?
I'M WAITING FOR HIM TO GROW UP A LITTLE MORE.
shudders
Urk


YOU TWO ACT LIKE YOU DIDN'T JUST DEMAND ME TO KILL HIM.
OH WELL.
whisper
whisper
SHIGE-YUKI'S SO SCARY!
.....
WOW, SHE TRULY DOESN'T THINK OF HIM AS HER OWN SON!
ONCE HE GETS A LITTLE BIGGER
WE CAN THEN OFFER HIM AS A SACRIFICE TO THE GREAT SERPENT.
I DOUBT IT WOULD EAT UNLUCKY PEOPLE, EITHER.
IT SHOULD HAVE HEARD ABOUT NARUSHIGE.
AS WELL AS THOSE FROM THE KINGEN LINE.
THE GREAT SERPENT...
...DOESN'T EAT SICKLY OR NUMBERED CHILDREN.
THINGS ARE BETTER THIS WAY.
A GAMBLE,
...IT IS
BUT THE ODDS THAT HE'D GET EATEN ARE EXTREMELY LOW!
IF HE RETURNS SAFE AND SOUND,
THE SHIGEKAS
AND THE THE PEOPLE IN THE CAPITAL WHO KNOW ABOUT THE SERPENT
WOULD BE PERSUADED
TO LEAVE HIM ALONE.

Gasp
!
Awoosh
HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME AT THE SERPENT'S PLACE NOW.../
THAT IT GAVE HIM A SNAKE AS A COMPANION
I CANNOT BELIEVE IT LIKED HIM SO MUCH
KOH!
LET'S GO!
'Kay!
I'M OKAY
WITH THIS
LET'S READ THIS SCROLL NEXT
SAE-SAMA
OKAY.
WHICH SHAPE DO YOU PREFER?
THIS ONE
AND
THE BLUE ONE

KINREI-SAMA
WHAT ARE WE DOING DOWN HERE...?
LOOK.
THE MOON HAS APPEARED!
THE MOON!
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
THE PRINCE HEARD IT IN YOUR MIND.
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING...
...THAT WE DON'T NEED SANOMES ANYMORE.
THIS IS...
A SANOME CHILD?
SHIGE-YUKI-DONO.

YES...
WE DON'T NEED SANOMES ANY LONGER...
IT WILL MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE.
DO WE HAVE YOUR SUPPORT?
WE'VE...
...BEEN THINKING ...
...OF CREATING A NEW WORLD.
DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE WE HAVE NOW.
MY FACE...
...EXPRESS EMOTIONS...
...CAN NO LONGER...
...?
ZZZ
I HOPE YOU FORGIVE ME.
I'M GOING TO SEND THEM AWAY NOW.
ZOOOOOM

KINGEN-SAMA HAS ALREADY INSPECTED THESE TREES.
NOW THAT THEY'VE GROWN THIS BIG,
IT WOULDN'T BE ODD FOR THEM TO START WITHERING.
skritch
MAYBE...
...IS THE SAME WRETCHED LOOK...
...I HAVE ON MY FACE RIGHT NOW...
...THAT SMILE MY MOTHER MADE...
I'M USED...
...TO KILLING NOW.
SWALLOW THIS.
IT WILL LET YOU DIE IN PEACE.
slip

WHOA! HEY!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
whoosh
shing
SAE-SAMA
shwip
THW
ACK!
swish
swish

crack
SNAP
crack
NARU-SHIGE...
SHIGEYUKI-SAMA!
WHAT WAS THAT?

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
OVER THERE!
BOP
BOP
krack
!
RAKAN
WHAT?
I DIDN'T SEE THEM LEAVE
IS THAT KINREI'S BLACK CLOTH..?
IT'S LIKE GLASS NOW...
DID... HIS POWERS EVOLVE..?
THEY'RE NOT THERE!

tss...
tss
WHAT?!
NARU-SHIGE!
tssh
tss
WHAT THE...?
HUH?
THERE'S SOME-THING ODD GOING ON IN THE CAPITAL...
!?
IT'S GETTING BRIGHTER...?

tss
THEY'RE RIGHT ABOVE US!
HE MADE ALL THE PUPPETS HE CREATED
SPONTA-NEOUSLY COMBUST!!
THE PRINCE!
FIRE?!
IT'S SPREA-DING!

PTH
OOM...
RAKAU.
THE FIGHT
IS FAR FROM
OVER!!

Silver Diamond

[VOL.25] CHAP 74 THE MASK

by [illegible]

[illegible]

Amato Empire

シルバー ダイヤモンド

SILVER DIAMOND

Sujiura Shiho

Volume 25 Chapter 74

brought to you by

Amato Empire

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Liars

I ONCE READ IN AN OLD DOCUMENT THAT THEIR OFFSPRING WON'T INHERIT THEM

MALE SANOMES

SHOULDN'T BE ABLE

TO PASS ON THEIR SANOME POWERS

EITHER WAY I CAN JUST LET THE SANOME PRINCE BE

.....

JUST AS I THOUGHT

SHE ONLY LOOKS HUMAN.

SHE TRULY IS A PUPPET

WILL FINALLY COME TO AN END!

THEN THE SHIGEKA'S DUTY

IS KILL THIS SANOME AND THROW HER CORPSE UNDERGROUND

NOW, ALL I HAVE TO DO

THWACK...!

MY WISH

IS FINALLY COMING TRUE!

.....

NARUSHIGE

.....

AND

WHAT ARE THEY DOING ALL THE WAY HERE...?

OF THE SANOME PRINCE

A COMRADE

SHIGEYUKI SAMA!

WHY DID YOU

TRY TO KILL THE SANOME JUST NOW?!

Be happy that you didn't end up being named in the final volume in stead, Togimaru. But I'm really, really sorry it took so long, Togimaru!

WILL THEY BE ALRIGHT?

tap

OF COURSE.

BUT JUST TO BE SAFE...

crack

CLINK

LET ME TRY LISTENING IN ON THEM.

SNAP

!

RIP

NARUSHIGE-SAN!

THEY'RE WITH SHIGEYUKI-SAN NOW?!

AH

CHIGUSA'S SENSES

ARE SPREADING OUT

TOWARDS THE DIRECTION WHERE NARUSHIGE-SAN IS.

SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE LOOKING DEEPER

INTO SHIGEYUKI-SAN'S EMOTIONS

SANOMES

AREN'T ACTUALLY AS GREAT AS YOU THINK, YOU KNOW.

SANOMES...

...ARE CARNIVOROUS PLANTS. THEY EAT PEOPLE.

SHWIPooo

HUH?

CRICK

WHAT?!

THEY BEAR FRUIT BY USING THE BODY

OF WHOEVER CONSUMES THE SANOME SEED AS ITS NOURISHMENT.

AND FROM THOSE EXPERI-MENTS

THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND OUT THAT SACRIFICING SOMEONE

WAS THE BEST WAY TO MAKE IT GROW

DID A NUMBER

OF EXPERI-MENTS

BUT AS TIME PASSED

THEY SUDDENLY LOST THEIR ABILITY TO DO SO

THE KINGENS AND THE SHIGEKAS

DURING THE FIRST FEW GENERATIONS

THE SEEDS WERE STRONG ENOUGH

TO GROW NATURALLY ON THEIR OWN

ALL THIS TIME

GROWING SANOMES

SO THAT'S HOW

WE HAVE BEEN

NO...

.....

UEH--

.....

NO...

THAT'S HORRIBLE!

ALL THIS TIME?!

WE NEED TO SACRIFICE PEOPLE...

...SO THAT WE WON'T RUN OUT...

...OF PRECIOUS GREENERY IN THIS WORLD

IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE...

BUT WAIT!

WHY DID YOU TRY TO KILL HER THEN?!

.....

IF I KILL HER, SHE'LL GROW INTO A TREE ONCE MORE.

THAT TREE WILL PRODUCE A LOT OF SANOME SEEDS.

I WAS TRYING TO ACQUIRE MORE OF THOSE SEEDS.

SHIGEYUKI-SAMA...

SHE'S JUST LIKE AL...

HUH? WAIT!

DOES THAT MEAN THAT'S HOW RAKAN WAS BORN?

WAYS...?

A CARNIVOROUS PLANT?

A...

BASICALLY...

IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE THESE STRANGE POWERS THAT--

YES

THAT EXPLAINS

THIS POWER I HAVE...

I SEE

THE ETERNAL LIFE TREE

WAS A CARNIVOROUS PLANT, TOO.

THAT'S RIGHT IT ALSO HAD ITS OWN SPECIAL ABILITIES

THIS ISN'T ALL THAT SURPRISING

SANOMES ARE PLANTS HOSHI-MUNOKOTO CREATED TOO, AFTER ALL.

WHILE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE

PEOPLE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON LIVING

I GUESS THERE'S NO USE

I DO

THINKING ABOUT IT NOW

YEAH

DON'T YOU TELL EVERYONE EARLIER

!

THAT THEY JUST NEED TO KEEP ON LIVING?

OHGUSA!

YEAH

THANKS

I'LL BE ALRIGHT

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

...HE SPROUTED FROM A SEED THAT WAS BURIED NATURALLY INTO THE GROUND.

THE LAST SANOME USED HER POWERS TO HELP IT GROW.

THE SEED HE SPROUTED FROM, MUST HAVE BEEN STRONG.

...JUST LIKE THE SANOMES IN THE OLDEN DAYS.

THE SANOME PRINCE?

NO, HE'S DIFFERENT.

OF COURSE.

I WATCHED IT HAPPEN.

!

YES.

...HUH?

ARE YOU ALSO AWARE THAT HE AND THE SANOME WERE CAST AWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD?

THEN,

!

YOU KNOW RAKAN-KUN?

YOU KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER?

...!

ON KINREI AND THE PRINCE'S SIDE FOR THAT LONG?!

SHE'S BEEN

WHOA!

THAT SANOME...

...APPARENTLY BEARS...

...THE NAME "SAE".

YES.

I WAS.

YOU WERE THE ONE...

...WHO SAW TO...

...ALL OF HER NEEDS... WEREN'T YOU?

SAY...

SHIGEYUKI-SAMA.

ABOUT THE PREVIOUS SANOME...

AND WHY...

...DID YOU GIVE MY SISTER THE SAME NAME?

WHY DID YOU NAME HER "SAE"?

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT GIVE HER THAT NAME, WEREN'T YOU?

SHIGEYUKI-SAMA!

...I WANT TO HEAR YOUR REASONS.

ALL OF IT.

THE TRUTH.

OH NO!

SHE PASSED AWAY WHILE KINREI-SAMA...

AND HIS MAJESTY WERE AT HER SIDE!

WHERE'S THE LAST SANOME?!

SHIGEYUKI!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM!

HURRY UP AND HAVE ANOTHER CHILD ALREADY!

YOU SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER CHILD

IT'S YOUR DUTY TO HAVE TWO CHILDREN!

TO INCREASE THE CHANCES WE HAVE OF CONCEIVING ANOTHER SANOME!

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHETHER WE CAN CONCEIVE ANOTHER SANOME

IT'S A QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT

THE SEED WILL GROW WELL ENOUGH TO BEAR A FRUIT

THERE ARE STILL SOME SEEDS LEFT

KINSEN-SAMA IS THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THEM RIGHT NOW

I CAN'T FOOL HIM!

I NEED

I NEED

TO KEEP KILLING PEOPLE...

SHIGEYUKI!

WHO'S GOING TO BE YOUR HEIR ANYWAY?!

OUR FAMILY'S REPUTATION WILL SINK EVEN FURTHER

IF OUR CLAN HEAD DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A DAUGHTER!

THERE'S NO HONOR BEING IN THIS CLAN IN THE FIRST PLACE

OUR FAMILY IS BETTER OFF DEAD

WHAT WITH THE ROLE WE HAVE

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER BODY?!

"SAE"?

SHE'S A NUMBERED CHILD?!

(...BUT...)

I COULD JUST TELL THEM SHE'S ILL.

THEY DON'T HAVE THE MEANS TO FIND OUT IF IT'S TRUE, ANYWAY.

.....

WHY IS IT...

THAT ALL THE CHILDREN YOU HAVE TURN OUT THIS WAY?!

"WE WILL CREATE...

A NEW WORLD."

THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE...

THE TRUTH IS...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD ANOTHER CHILD.

I SHOULD HAVE MADE UP SOME SORT OF REASON

THAT MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BEAR ANOTHER ONE.

WE CAN JUST HAVE YOUR DAUGHTER BE THE SHIGEKA'S NEXT CLAN HEAD.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED... KASANE.

WHEN I DIE, I'LL LEAVE EVERYTHING TO YOU TWO.

ALL—

ALL RIGHT! I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED! OKAY THEN!

IF IT EVER DOES COME ABOUT

THERE IN THAT NEW WORLD

COULD LIVE

I...

I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF

FROM HOPING THAT MY CHILD

IT'S ALMOST AS IF

I NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL

LOSING THE ABILITY TO JUDGE THINGS PROPERLY

I'M SLOWLY

THAT THE SANOME'S NAME IS SAE

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS

THERE ARE TWO OF ME NOW

THE ME ON THE OUTSIDE, AND THE ME ON THE INSIDE

IF ONLY I KNEW SHE WOULD BE SENT TO ANOTHER WORLD

THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE TAUGHT HER OUR LANGUAGE

I'M SURE

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE EASIER FOR HER

IF SHE DIDN'T DEVELOP A MIND OF HER OWN

IF SHE STAYED IGNORANT ABOUT EVERYTHING!

SHIGEYUKI-SAMA

YES, I WAS

AND YES, I DID GIVE YOUR SISTER THE SAME NAME AS HER

YOU WERE THE ONE

WHO NAMED THAT SANOME, WEREN'T YOU?

I'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT HER

AND GIVE THIS CHILD THE SAME NAME SPELLED DIFFER-ENTLY

SAE (三重)

AND

I GAVE THAT GIRL SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME

SO THAT I COULD THINK OF HER AS A STRANGER

I FEEL NO LOVE FOR HER

AFTER ALL

SHE

REALLY DOES FEEL THAT WAY!

BUT I HONESTLY DOUBT

THAT ANYTHING ASKED OF HER WILL BE ANSWERED TRUTHFULLY,

Hmm, what to do.

NARUSHIGE-SAN...

Argh. Hang in there!

SHE HAS SUCH A TIGHT HANDLE ON HER OWN EMOTIONS...

She's got amazing control of herself

...THAT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW HOW SHE REALLY FEELS ANYMORE

I COULD TRY LOOKING A LITTLE DEEPER.

snap

ACTUALLY,

NO WAY?!

...OKAY.

WHY IS SAE...

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE...

...ANYTHING VISIBLY WRONG WITH HER BODY.

...A NUMBERED CHILD, THEN?

THERE...

THAT GIRL IS BARREN.

SHE WILL BE OF NO USE TO ME...

...IF SHE CANNOT SUCCEED AS HEAD OF THE SHIGEKAS....

I HAD TO MAKE THAT CLEAR IN HER NAME,

SO THAT I COULD HAVE KASANE BEAR AN HEIR FOR ME.

"YOU'RE SENDING NARUSHIGE..."

"...TO ANOTHER WORLD?"

THAT'S...

.....

TROUBLE FOR US.

THAT HE MIGHT CAUSE SOME TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE.

THE PRINCE HAS A FEELING

HE IS AN ILL OMEN.

HE'LL BE SENT

SEND HIM AWAY...

TO THE SAME PLACE THE SANOME AND THE CHILD WERE SENT TO?

SENROH CHIGUSA WAS SENT THERE AS WELL.

YES,

HE WAS?

DO WE KILL HIM,

OR DO WE CAST HIM AWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD?

YOU'RE HIS MOTHER. IT'S UP TO YOU TO DECIDE.

"IT'S NOT SAFE HERE!"

"THE SENROHS LIVE IN THIS MOUNTAIN!"

...DON'T WORRY...

OVER HERE!

LOOK!

DURING THAT TIME,

SAE-SAMA WAS STILL AROUND...

"SAE-SAMA!"

"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

WHEN HE WAS FINALLY CAPTURED, HE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH...

...BY CRUCIFIXION...

...NOT TOO LONG AGO,

SENROH CHIGUSA KEPT ON TRYING TO ASSASSINATE...

...KINREI-SAMA AND THE PRINCE.

...DURING THAT TIME

THERE'S...

...SOMEONE SLEEPING...

OVER THERE...

WHOOSH

HE'S...A GOOD PERSON

IF THIS MAN IS A SENROH

THEN HE'S PROBABLY A MONSTER, YOU KNOW

MAYBE HE'S ALREADY DEAD

THERE IS?!

NO

DON'T WORRY

HE'S ASLEEP

LOOKED JUST LIKE THAT MAN I SAW BACK THEN

THE MAN THAT WAS CRUCIFIED

THEY'RE THE ONES TRYING TO DESTROY THE WORLD, AFTER ALL!

HE WAS IN THE RIGHT FOR TARGETING THESE TWO

TRUE ENOUGH

"HE'S A GOOD PERSON" ...

DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO LIE

SAE-SAMA

IT'S BETTER THAN GETTING KILLED FOR STAYING HERE

IT'S THE ONLY OPTION I HAVE

(...IT DOE-SN'T HURT)

NARUSHIGE

FORGIVE ME

I NO LONGER CARE ABOUT THE TROUBLES YOU FACE

PLEASE SEND HIM AWAY

SENROH AND NARUSHIGE ARE BOTH CONSIDERED

BAD NEWS IN THIS WORLD

PERHAPS

THEY'LL BECOME ALLIES IF THEY EVER MEET IN THE OTHER WORLD

(I'M NOT SAD)

(IT DOESN'T HURT)

(IT DOESN'T HURT)

(AFTER ALL)

(I DON'T LOVE HIM)

IT CAME FROM THE OTHER WORLD?!

KINREI-SAMA, THIS IS...

A SANOME FRUIT!!

ROLLS...

YES.

A PLANT SPROUTED AFTER THAT SANOME DIED,

AND BORE THIS SANOME CHILD,

SOUNDS LIKE THAT SANOME CHILD..!

...WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN THAT WORLD

SENDING THEM THERE WAS DEFINITELY THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I EXPECT YOU...

...TO RAISE *THIS ONE* PROPERLY.

DON'T KILL IT MIDWAY.

.....

SHIGEYUKI-SAMA.

UM.

YOU...

YOU TOLD SAE TO GO TO THE SERPENT,

DIDN'T YOU?

GO, NARU-SHIGE!

YES, I BELIEVE SO.

I TOLD HER TO LEAVE.

"PERHAPS, YOU SHOULD TRY PAYING NARUSHIGE-SAN A VISIT?"

"HE MIGHT EVEN TREAT YOU WITH KINDNESS."

YOU'RE A NUMBERED CHILD, ARE YOU NOT?

IS IT REALLY ALL THAT ODD OF ME TO TELL YOU THAT?

MOTHER...

WHA- WHAT DO YOU MEAN

YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE?

YOU KNEW

THE SERPENT DIDN'T EAT NUMBERED CHILDREN, DIDN'T YOU?

OH?

IS THAT SO?

(...AFTER ALL,)

(I HAVE THIS NOW)

ONCE IT FINDS OUT SHE'S NARUSHIGE'S SISTER, MAYBE IT'LL LIKE HER TOO.

IT EVEN TOOK AN INTEREST IN NARUSHIGE...

THE SERPENT ISN'T KNOWN FOR EATING NUMBERED CHILDREN.

THEN I'LL JUST SEND HER SOMEPLACE ELSE.

IF SHE COMES BACK,

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE SHE CAN GO BACK TO ANYWAY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT WOULDN'T LET HER STAY THERE.

I NEVER LOVED HER, ANYWAY.

AFTER ALL,

...DOESN'T MAKE ME SAD, REALLY.

IT...

IT DOESN'T EVEN HURT.

.....

.....

WHAT IS IT...

...THAT WANT ME TO SAY,

NARU-SHIGE?

WHOOSH

I'M PRETTY SURE...

...YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING...

...SOME-THING.

IS THERE SOMETHING...

YOU'RE TRYING TO VERIFY BEFORE YOU KILL ME?

MOTHER...

"SAE"...

I CAME HERE

TO GET YOU OUT OF THE CAPITAL SAFELY!

SAE'S WAITING FOR YOU OUT THERE.

SHE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

NO!

WHAT?!

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL YOU!

WHY SHOULD I LEAVE?

YOU'RE MY ENEMIES.

...OH.

I HAVE NO LOVE

FOR EITHER OF YOU.

SHE CAN'T BE SWAYED...

WHAT SHE SAID JUST NOW!

SHE REALLY MEANT

I SEE...

AH...

BECAUSE SHE'LL FORM AN ATTACHMENT TO YOU ONCE SHE DOES, NARUSHIGE

SHE WON'T LOVE YOU ..

CHIGUSA ...

..SHE HATES THEM ..?

SHIGEYUKI

I WILL...

PUT AN END TO OUR FAMILY'S DUTY!

... ...

HAS TO STOP!

THIS...!

"THE HUMAN SACRIFICES ARE FOR THE BEST."

MOTHER SAID THAT

WHILE WEARING SUCH A FRIGHT-ENING SMILE...

"WE NEED SANOMES, SO THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO."

HATES THE SHIGEKAS

I ONLY SPARED

I STOOD BY!

..AND WATCHED THOSE GIRLS SWALLOW THE SEEDS

I TURNED OUT TO BE JUST LIKE HER.

IN THE END

...TWO PEOPLE FROM THAT FATE...

.. IN SUCH A WAY THAT OTHERS WON'T REALIZE.

BELIEVING IT / WOULD BE THE COURSE THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE LEAST AMOUNT...

...OF SACRIFICES.

I JUST DID WHATEVER I WANTED.

...YES.

I WAS SELFISH.

I PRETTY MUCH JUST DID THINGS FOR MY OWN CONVENIENCE.

IN THE END...

I CAN'T LET THEM GET INVOLVED.

I AM THE ONE TO BLAME FOR EVERYTHING

...ARE NOT THE TYPE OF PEOPLE THAT WOULD ONLY THINK OF SAVING THEMSELVES

THOSE TWO CHILDREN

...SHE AND HER CLAN HAS COMMITTED OVER THE YEARS.

THEN YOU TWO ALSO BE TIED TO ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS...

THAT SHE HAS A MATERNAL ATTACHMENT FOR YOU AND SAE,

IF SHE ACKNOWLEDGES

I DON'T

I DON'T LOVE HIM

I'M NOT FOND OF HIM—

(I NEVER PLANNED TO BE)

IN THE FIRST PLACE

I WAS NEVER FOND OF HIM

I NEVER DID

HONESTLY DON'T LOVE MY CHILDREN

SENROH

I...

HOWEVER...

I BELIEVE SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH

...YEAH

.....

WELL

I DON'T LOVE YOU EITHER!

YES.

YOU SHOULD HATE A PARENT LIKE ME.

NARU-SHIGE-SAN...

I WAS SO GLAD...

...THAT YOU TRIED TO KILL ME...

...THAT TIME...

SSSSH

IT'S NOT LIKE...

I...

ACTUALLY LIKE YOU EITHER!

SWOOSH

FWIP

.....

SNAP!

YOU SHOULD...

HATE ME

BANG!

YES

KEEP ON HATING ME

I WAS PLANNING TO KILL MYSELF SOMEHOW

AFTER GETTING RID OF THE SANOME ANYWAY

I JUST

I'M CURIOUS

EVEN THOUGH I PLANNED

NOT BECOME FOND OF THEM

EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LOVE THEM

HAD TO SEE THEM ONE MORE TIME

I COULDN'T DIE

THAT WAS THE PLAN, BUT...

"AND THE SOLE MAN KNOWN TO BE BORN FROM THE SHIGEKAS..."

"HE HAS ONCE AGAIN APPEARED IN THE NORTHERN LANDS"

"VERY CLOSE TO WHERE RAKAN-SAMA IS"

"THE SENROH CHIGUSA IS LURKING..."

"SHIGEYUKI-SAMA!"

...I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN

HE HAS RETURNED AS THE PRINCE'S ENEMY...

...WHAT ON EARTH?

NARUSHIGE HAS RETURNED...?

BUT HE WAS THROWN INTO ANOTHER WORLD!

"I'M SO GLAD"

"I HAD THE PERFECT EXCUSE"

"TO BRING YOU BACK"

(I WANTED YOU BY MY SIDE)

(I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN)

"HAVING YOU ON THE ENEMY'S SIDE"

"WOULD HARM MY POSITION"

"WHY DID YOU..."

"BRING ME BACK THIS WAY?"

(BUT AT LEAST YOU'D BE BY MY SIDE!)

(YOU'LL BE CONTROLLED)

"YOU WILL BECOME A SERVANT UNDER THE PRINCE'S CONTROL"

"BY DRINKING THIS,"

"NARUSHIGE"

(HE WOULD'VE BEEN KILLED IF HE CONTINUED TO BE AN ENEMY!)

BETRAY YOUR FRIENDS

I DON'T CARE IF IT MAKES YOU

YOU'RE TERRIFYING!

ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU!

...I SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE

HATING

.....

AND YOU'RE SO COLD! YOU DON'T EVEN SMILE!

I NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING

SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING YOU!

I HATE YOU SO MUCH THAT I...

ALL THIS TIME...

I CAN'T HELP

GAZING AT HIM...

YOU THREW ME AWAY SO MANY TIMES!

YOU'RE SO MERCILESS! AND CRUEL TOO!

I WAS SO SAD!!

YOUR FACE

IT'S VERY HARD FOR ME TO EVEN LOOK AT

SO, SO SAD

...I WAS SO SAD...

ESCAPE WITH ME

BUT PLEASE

I...

TRULY DO HATE YOU

YOU...

NARUSHIGE

SO WELL...

YOU GREW UP

I WAS SAD BECAUSE I WANTED THIS PERSON TO LIKE ME

AND I WANTED THIS PERSON TO LIKE ME BECAUSE...

BWOOM...

!?

WHAT?!

THE ROCKS ARE ON FIRE!

LIGHTS... A FIRE?!

PART OF ME

IS ACTUALLY

FOND

OF THIS PERSON

MOTHER...

FIRE!

IN THE CAPITAL!

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?!

IT'S SO BRIGHT...

WHAT ABOUT RAKAN AND SENROH?!
NARUSHIGE-SAN AND TOHJI AREN'T BACK YET EITHER!
WHAT IS THAT?! FIRE?!
WE'RE TRYING TO CONTACT HIM BUT HE'S NOT ANSWERING!
WHAT ABOUT TSUBAKI?
RAKAN AND CHIGUSA ARE AT THE WHITE ROCKS
TSK! IT'S A LITTLE HARD TOO SEE... IS IT BECAUSE OF THE FIRE?
TOHJI AND NARUSHIGE-SAN ARE INSIDE THE SHIGEKA ESTATE
ROAR...
WOOSH
AH! KURO?!
THE WHOLE CAPITAL
IS ON FIRE!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY'S THE CAPITAL ON FIRE?

CHIGUSA!

NARUSHIGE! TOHJI!

HURRY UP AND LEAVE THROUGH THE BRIDGE AT THE CLIFF NEARBY!

THINGS JUST STARTED IGNITING ALL OVER THE CAPITAL!

AND THE FIRE'S STARTING TO SPREAD OVER YOUR DIRECTION!

IT'S THE STREETS ONE FLOOR BELOW THAT PLAZA THAT'S ON FIRE.

THE PLACE WE'RE AT IS SAFE.

RUSTLES

!

WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO? WILL OUT BE ALL RIGHT?

CLINK

CLACK

TOHJI!

GOTCHA!

!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THEM, BUT WE'LL LEAVE RIGHT AFTER!

YOU GUYS HURRY UP AND LEAVE, OKAY?

WHAT ABOUT KINREI AND THE PRINCE?

WOOSH

THE WAY OUT!

WHAT?!

!

THE FIRE'S REACHED THE SHIGEKA'S ALREADY!

SLIDE

!

AH!

Everybody

It's been a while, Narusawa-kun

Yuna Tohju! It's a pleasure to meet you

You look better in person!

You're looking well. That's good.

OTHERWISE YOU'LL TURN INTO STONE FROM GETTING TOO CLOSE TO ME!

MITAMA!!

YOU NEED TO LEAVE ONCE EVERYONE'S ON YOU!

I SAW IT IN CHIGUSA'S MEMORIES.

THAT'S HOW SHE WAS DESIGNED...

!

OH YEAH!

CRACK!

It's perfect, really.

It's fine, Senroh.

...Prince.

...you said earlier.

I agree with everything...

CRICK

...WHAT?

You said it was okay to choose your own fate.

That's what I'm doing

I was originally just a tool created by Hoshuminokoto

My fate was set in stone the moment I was created

I am a "tool" so I have an expiration date as an object

Sure, getting close to Senroh now will just make me turn to stone faster

All the other serpents have already turned into stone

My time has probably come

!

SNAP

but this is my choice to make

This is the fate I chose for myself

SLIDE

Please get on.

Don't put the last thing I'll do with my life to waste

OF COURSE!

!

MITAMA-SAMA!

I can finally die

as something more than just a tool now.

Thank you

Let's be friends

Shigeyuki

It's our first time meeting, isn't it

Be sure to thank her for it later

So I'm going to save you

That's what I promised Sae

WHAT?

FWAP

MITAMA-SAMA...

But you don't want to kill anyone anymore, yes?

I HAVEN'T FULFILLED...

GASP

ANY OF MY PROMISES TO YOU AT ALL!

I...

MITAMA-SAMA!

Oh, Narushige.

You promised to bring me the person you wish to kill

That's not true.

KRACK

SNAP

.....!

.....

Right now

I feel so sad

Koh

Narushige.

But I'm also happy.

I'm so sad I have to die.

I never felt...

...emotions like this in the past.

...of parting with you all makes my heart break...

Just the thought...

It wouldn't even be considered "dying".

...just "break down" in the end.

...then we would definitely ...

If we never felt anything...

HM?

IT'S TOHJI AND THE OTHERS! THEY LANDED ON A CLIFF SOMEWHERE OVER THERE!

Really?

...I've finally become a living thing.

I think...

SKID

It's been fun for me too

THANKS TO YOU ALL

IT'S AS IF I HAD CHILDREN OF MY OWN...

HOW TO BEGIN THANKING YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!

I...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW

MITAMA-SAMA!

Take care, Narushige, Koh.

in my place

Please be kind to them

Narushige and Sae are very dear to me

Shigeyuki

REARS UP

Take care, Tohji

You and I are friends so I'm counting on you

SURE ...

GREAT SERPENT...

.....

VSSHH

SNAP

Prince

KRACK

But
I'm sure

my soul
will still be
here

CRACK

I'll turn
into a
river

I'm going
to die

and turn
into stone

VSHH

SNAP

A river
carrying
my name

I suppose
you could
call it a new
beginning

KRAK

SSS

I BELIEVE...

I will always be a part of this world

THAT MAY BE WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE "ETERNAL LIFE"

BAM

for as long as it keeps turning

WOOSH

RSS

FWOOSH

ハハハ

TSSSS

RAKAN! CHUNSA!

ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?

YEAH

YEP

EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW. THE FIRE'S DYING

THE SUBSTANT

EXTINGUISHED IT FOR US

THE CLIFF YOU'RE AT ISN'T SAFE, SO ONCE DAWN COMES, BUILD A BRIDGE

AND HEAD ON OVER TO KAZUHI

ALL RIGHT

SEE YOU, THEN.

GOTCHA

WHAT ABOUT KINREI AND THE PRINCE?

THEY'RE OKAY

WE MIGHT TAKE A WHILE, THOUGH

SFX: FLAP

PLEASE

FORGIVE US...

NONETHE-LESS

THEY'RE STILL HESITANT TO DO SO RIGHT NOW...

WITHOUT TAKING IN NEW BLOOD INTO THEIR FAMILY LINE

EVEN THOUGH THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HAVE ANY MORE CHILDREN

HAVEN'T HAD ANY CHILDREN SINCE KINREI-SAMA

THE KINGENS

IF THE PERSON IS FROM THE NEXT BEST BLOODLINE AFTER THE KINGENS!

I'M SURE THEY'D BE FINE WITH IT

Extra
Sweet Whispers

HE IS...

UNDENIABLY A VERY GOOD MAN...

I WAS BEING SUCH A PUSHY CHILD

AND YET HE STILL BE-, LIEVED IN THE LIES I FED HIM

KINJOU-SAMA

GAVE IN RIGHT AWAY

THANK GOODNESS

IF SHE HAD THE SAME SKIN AND HAIR COLOR AS YOU DO, BUT THEN THIS HAPPENED

OF GIVING THE CHILD TO YOU, KINJOU-SAMA

I WAS THINKING

I'M SORRY

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS...

IN SPITE OF THE MISFORTUNE HE REPRESENTS.

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON THE WELLBEING OF THE WHOLE EMPIRE.

YOU'VE BEEN TOO KIND, REALLY.

IT'S OKAY.

YOU GAVE HIM SUCH A LOVELY NAME,

FORGIVE ME, SHIGEYUKI.

I COULDN'T PROVIDE A MORE REASSURING COVER FOR HIM...

HE'S TOO SOFT.

EVEN THOUGH THE KINGENS WOULDN'T GAIN ANYTHING FROM THE CHILD.

HE DIDN'T THINK OF THE EMPIRE WHEN IT CAME TO HIS OWN CHILD.

BUT..

INTO CONSUMING SANOME SEEDS.

THAT'S THE REASON THEY USED TO FORCE THE SHIGEKAS

SHIGEYUKI.

HE'S THAT GOOD A PERSON...

WELL...

THAT'S ALL THE QUESTIONS I HAD TO ASK -

HE'S...

REALLY TOO KIND.

BUT YOU CAN RELY ON ME WHEN IT GETS TOO TOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW...

...WHAT IT IS YOU'RE HIDING.

YOU DON'T NEED TO SHOULDER EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN.

RELY ON ME WHEN IT GETS TO BE TOO MUCH.

YOU'RE SHREWD...

...AND LEVEL-HEADED.

BUT YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. AND YET PEOPLE EXPECT SO MUCH FROM YOU AS SHIGEKA'S CLAN HEAD...

...A GOOD... PERSON.

HE'S UNDENIABLY...

YES.

ON THE INSIDE...

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

WE'RE

...TO DECEIVE THE WHOLE WORLD!!

I NEED...

...THE SHIGEKAS AND MY OWN CHILDREN.

I STILL HAVE TO FOOL...

NOT NOW.

...I'M NOT GOING TO CRY.

SHIGEYUKI.

MAY I...

REALLY DEPEND ON YOU?

JUST ONCE

I'LL ONLY DO IT ONCE

...BUT

LET'S SAY...

LET'S SAY THAT...

THAT SOMETHING COMES UP IN THE FUTURE

SHIGEYUKI!

CLACK

OH, NO

I'M HERE TO SEE KINJOU-SAMA

WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE SANOME?

NARUSHIGE HAS RETURNED?

HE'S ACTING AS AN ENEMY!

IF I...

IF I GET KINJOU-SAMA TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT HE'S A KINGEN

THEN

THEN I'M SURE I CAN SAVE HIM SOMEHOW!!

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO VISIT HIM TODAY?

◆番外編_ささめごと／おわり◆

Extra Sweet Whispers / End

Intermission Buddies

NO, I'VE SEEN THAT SHAPE BEFORE IN A BOOK. I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT'S CALLED, THOUGH.
THE MOON?
ISN'T ITS SHAPE A LITTLE WONKY?
APPARENTLY IT CAN LOOK BIGGER OR SMALLER.
RAKAN AND NARUSHIGE-SAN SAID THE SAME THING.
?
HUH?
HOW COME? WHY ISN'T IT A PERFECT CIRCLE?
chatter
chatter
WHAT ARE "STARS"?
THEY'RE THE NUMEROUS TINY LIGHTS IN THE SKY WHEN THERE ARE NO CLOUDS AROUND.
WOW, YOU'RE LIKE A WALKING LIBRARY.
THOSE ARE PROBABLY "STARS".
WHAT ARE THOSE TINY LIGHTS AROUND IT?
AND DON'T THINK I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT QUESTION YOU SNEAKED IN THERE!!
I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH!
WHY?
ARE THE MOON AND STARS GLUED ONTO THE SKY?
SO AREN'T YOU ACTUALLY MORE OF AN OLD MAN THAN I AM?
HEY, WHY DOESN'T THAT MOON EVER FALL DOWN?
YEAH!

Silver Diamond

[VOL.25] CHAP. 75: LIARS

by Sugiura Shiho

We hope you enjoy the scanlation! This is a non-profit fan effort for English fans. Please consider buying this volume (or others!) to support Sugiura-sensei as she brings us fantastic new manga.

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SILVER DIAMOND

Sujiura Shiho

Volume 25 Chapter 75

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